

FEATHER MEANINGS

The Big Field Guide





Introduction

Feathers have been used by humans for thousands of years, and they are still popular today. People love feathers because they are beautiful and have a lot of symbolism and mystery attached to them.

Feathers can represent a variety of things, such as freedom, power, and grace.

They have been used for centuries by different cultures all over the world for spiritual and ceremonial purposes. There is something about feathers that seems to capture our imaginations and inspire us to dream big.

In this field guide, we will explore the meaning and symbolism of feathers in detail. From the vibrant plumage of the fiery-throated hummingbird's neck to the fluffy and fancily decorated tuft of an ostrich, we've put together this expansive guide to help you better understand the feather and its diverse symbolism.

Bird Feathers Meanings

BLUE JAY



An impressive bird that features blue feathers, crests, and eyes, the appearance of a blue jay's plumage serves as a silver lining at our most trying times.

A symbol of hope, loyalty, and intelligence, their presence gives us the heart to stay resilient in the face of adversity and to keep moving towards our goals regardless of the odds.

CARDINAL



Established as perhaps one of the most impressive and easily recognizable birds around, these relatively shy creatures fly in to bring messages of joy, devotion, and warmth in our lives.

As their plumage is revered by many for symbolizing vigor and courage, it motivates us to constantly keep moving forward and to face our fears with grace and confidence.

CROW



Since crows are considered in several cultures as protectors and guardians, it doesn't come as a surprise that their feathers have long been held in high regard.

Portrayed in certain cultures as an image of transcendence and wisdom, they are believed to be instrumental in helping the souls of the recently deceased cross from the physical world to the spiritual realm.

Bird Feathers Meanings

DOVE



Perhaps the most popular symbol of peace, love, and freedom, the dove feather teaches us the importance of staying connected with the Divine, as well as the value of developing strong and meaningful bonds.

An image of serenity, fertility, and grace, it motivates us to always strive to be the best versions of ourselves.

DUCK



Known for their ability to keep a cheerful face all while paddling frantically under the surface, ducks are an ideal example of how to face life challenges with poise and grace.

While others see this as a subtle form of deceit, their message of awareness, empathy, and fertility makes the appearance of its feather all worth it.

EAGLE



Favored for its amazing ability to soar hundreds of feet in the sky, the eagle has enjoyed centuries of reverence and is considered as our strong connection with the Divine.

A symbol of freedom, courage, and confidence, the plumage of these highly revered birds tells us to be proud of our gifts and to face our fears with high self-esteem and courage.

Bird Feathers Meanings

FALCON



Respected as one of the animal kingdom's most effective predators, their feathers remind us of how we should learn to make use of our skills and talents.

Having long been observed to stick to a single mate for life, the falcon's feather signifies our need to develop strong bonds and long-lasting relationships.

GOOSE



Admired for their ability to form a V-formation while in transit, the goose feather teaches us how to remain graceful even when faced with hardships.

Playing a critical spiritual role in helping us realize joy, peace, and contentment, the plumage of these friendly creatures makes it easier to reach high levels of spiritual progress.

HAWK



Revered for their remarkable eyesight, hawk feathers represent our need to be more aware of the opportunities and potential risks in our environment.

Their ability to fly impressively high easily made their feathers carriers of Divine messages, which our spirit guides send to make us acknowledge their presence and make their plans known.

Bird Feathers Meanings

OWL



While popular culture portrays owls as creatures of high intelligence and deep-rooted wisdom, several traditions see them as bad omens and harbingers of death and misfortune.

Although their fondness for the dark has given them a rather negative connotation, the owl feather has long been used to honor deities and seen as a source of protection.

PEACOCK



Used in various cultures for decorative and religious purposes, the peacock feather is a well-known symbol of strength, pride, and beauty.

The peacock uses its plumage to assert its dominance or impress a potential mate, inspiring us to face challenges with a strong spiritual mindset and helping us find meaning and purpose in life's most pressing circumstances.

PIGEON



Often found scavenging for food in parks, yards, and gardens, the plumage of these gentle creatures represents hope and our capacity to be agents of peace.

Considered a carrier of messages from the heavens, it gives us the spiritual strength to view a difficult situation as a path that leads to renewal.

Bird Feathers Meanings

RAVEN



Having long been associated with spirituality, death, and rebirth, the raven's feather indicates a period of change and transition that is about to take place.

While black feathers typically represent wisdom and protection, this bird's ability to mimic sounds has made its dark plumage a symbol of communication and a need for spiritual guidance.

TURKEY



The backbone of America's Thanksgiving table, the turkey's feather teaches us to appreciate the gifts bestowed upon us by nature.

Having long been considered an omen of strength, wisdom, and abundance, its presence reminds us about the value of gratitude for it helps us cherish good experiences, promote positive emotions, and build lasting relationships.

WOODPECKER



Typically sporting plumage of varying colors, the woodpecker feather offers a range of fascinating messages that encourage us to stay watchful, joyful, and persistent.

Known for creating a distinct tapping sound as it pecks a thousand times a day, it motivates us to recognize our more creative side for it helps make expressing ourselves effortlessly.