

## The story of the dodo

Many years ago, there lived a bird called the dodo. The dodo lived on the beautiful island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean, near to Madagascar. The dodo was a large bird with blue-grey feathers. It had a big head, a black beak, short yellow legs and curly white feathers on its tail.



The dodo lived happily on Mauritius, eating fallen fruits and building its nest on the ground. There were no other animals to prey on the dodo and so it was not afraid of anything. The dodo couldn't even fly because it did not need to escape from predators.

One day, some sailors came to Mauritius. They had been travelling at sea for a very long time, and they were hungry. Looking around the island for food, the sailors found the dodo bird. The dodo was so friendly that it walked right up to the sailors. Sadly, the sailors killed the dodo so they could eat its meat.

The sailors also brought animals with them. They brought pigs, monkeys, cats and worst of all – rats! Now the dodo had to share food with these new animals, and the rats ate the dodo's eggs. The sailors also chopped down trees so they could grow tea and sugar plants. This meant they destroyed the home of the dodo, as well as lots of other animals.

The number of dodo birds started to get smaller and smaller. One day, the last dodo was killed. Unfortunately, there were no more dodo birds left anywhere in the world. This meant the dodo was now extinct.