

Name _____ **Summarizing Texts**

John James Audubon



John James Audubon was an ornithologist (a scientist who studies birds), a painter, and a naturalist. Born in France, he was sent to the United States at the age of twenty-three so he would not be drafted in the Napoleonic Wars. There he learned English, married, and kept a family farm in Pennsylvania where he was the first person in North America to put leg bands on birds for the purposes of identifying and tracking them. Audubon’s bands were made of yarn. His observations led to the discovery that birds return to the same nesting place each year.

Around the same time, Audubon began to paint birds, and following the failure of several business ventures, he dedicated himself to this pursuit. He travelled up and down the Mississippi River, shooting birds, and then using wires to prop them into natural looking positions so he could use them as models and paint them. His paintings didn’t sell well in America, but they were a hit in London, where he became known as the “American Woodsman.” From the sales of his paintings, Audubon raised the money to publish his first and now famous book, *Birds of America* in 1827. Other books followed, and eventually *Birds of America* was also published in the United States. The Audubon Society was dedicated and named in his honor in 1896.

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

2. List several supporting details for the main idea.
