

THE LIFE OF A BALD EAGLE

LESSON PLAN

Objectives:

- Students will be able to describe basic facts about the bald eagle.
- Students will recognize the bald eagle as the symbol of the United States.
- Students will practice reading and comprehending an informational text.
- Students will complete a creative project to reinforce their learning.

Materials:

ARTICLE: [*The Life of a Bald Eagle*](#)

WORKSHEET: Crossword about *The Life of a Bald Eagle* attached.

WORKSHEET: Booklet pages attached.

Other:

- scissors
- colored pens/pencils
- stapler or hole-punch & ribbon

Suggested Procedure:

1. Tell the students you are thinking of a very special animal. Students can ask yes/no questions about the animal until they figure out that you are referring to the bald eagle. If necessary, give them some hints. (Optional: turn this into a competition, with teams/individuals taking turns to ask questions.)
2. Ask students what they know about the bald eagle. Elicit any prior knowledge they may have and write keywords on the board.
3. Tell students they are going to learn more about the Bald Eagle. Students read the article *The Life of a Bald Eagle*. Depending on the students' reading level, this can be done as a class, led by the teacher, or students may take some time to review the text individually.
4. Verbally ask students comprehension questions about the article. Give them time to find the information and then answer. If they have print versions of the article, have the students circle the answers; if you are working from a computer screen, students can take turns to come and point to the answers.

Suggestions questions:

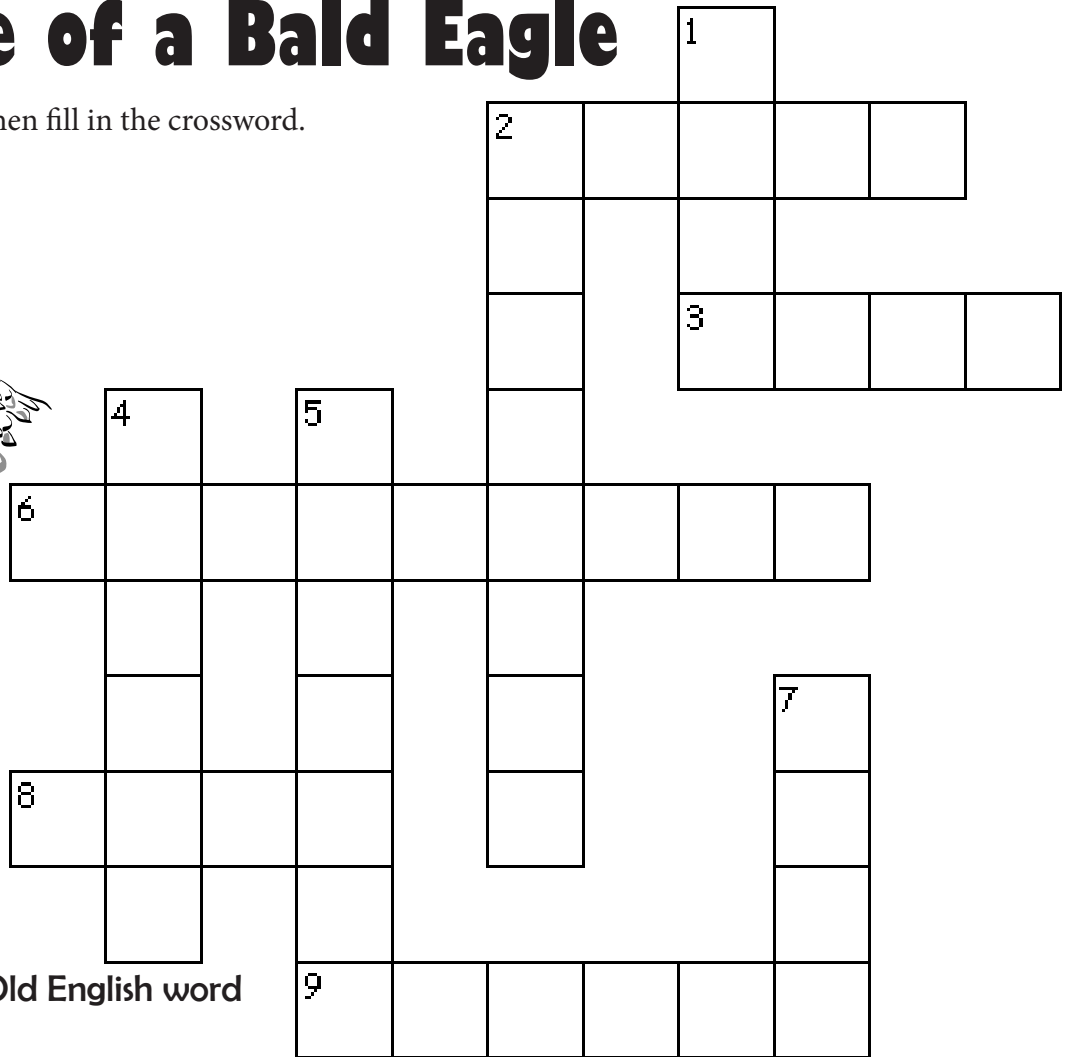
- What is the bald eagle the emblem for? (It may be necessary to explain the word “emblem”)
 - Why is this bird called the “bald” eagle?
 - What size is the bald eagle?
 - How much does it weigh?
 - How long does it live for?
 - What does the bald eagle eat?
 - How far can bald eagle travel?
 - What dangers does it face?
5. Students complete the crossword, using information from the article to solve the clues.
6. Students create a booklet on the bald eagle, using the attached pages. They complete the sentences and illustrate the book, before cutting out the pages and stapling or tying them into a booklet.

Extension: Research poster. Students choose another animal that is native to the United States or North America. They can create a poster about their chosen animal, including information such as habitat, diet, behavior, reproduction, etc.

Extension: American Wildlife Fact File. Students create a fact file of animals native to the United States or North America. They can make a booklet, with one page per animal.

The Life of a Bald Eagle

Read the article and then fill in the crossword.

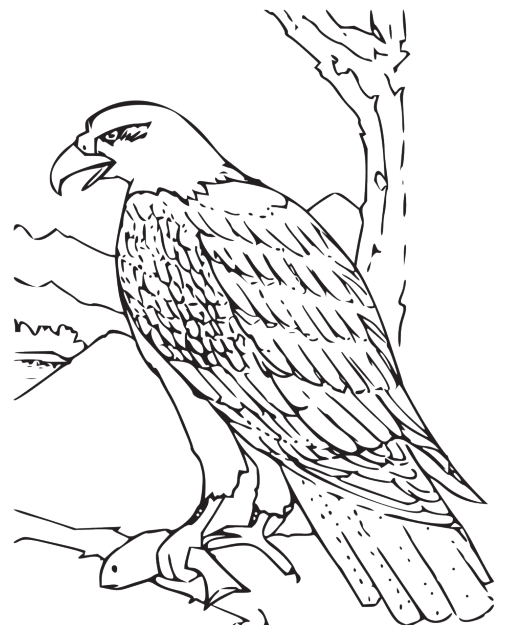


Across

2. "Balde" is the Old English word for _____.
3. It's illegal to _____ bald eagles.
6. The bald eagle is the emblem on the U.S. _____.
8. Two eagles work together to build a _____.
9. Bald eagles pick up food with their _____.

Down

1. Bald eagles love to eat _____.
2. They have a _____ of eight feet.
4. Bald eagles can _____ long distances.
5. Hunting, _____ destruction and toxic pesticides are all threats to the bald eagle.
7. A female usually lays two _____ every year.



The Bald Eagle

Written by _____.

The Bald Eagle is the emblem of the

_____.

The Bald Eagle lives for _____

in the wild.

Its body is between _____ inches long.

Its wingspan can stretch to _____.

The bald eagle lives _____

_____.

The bald eagle's favorite food is _____.

It can also eat _____.

_____.

_____.