

# Animals of the World: Birds



## THE EAGLE



Eagles are large predatory birds of prey that can be found in almost any part of the world. They prefer a climate that is not extremely cold or hot, so they are not found in polar regions.

The favorite habitat of eagles is near water sources, places where it is easier to catch fish and other creeping animals, such as snakes or lizards. Eagles are found mainly in wetland areas, of coasts and near lakes and rivers.

Eagles are among the largest birds in the world. They are 70 to 95 centimeters tall and weigh from half a kilogram to 7 kilograms, depending on the species.



All species of eagle have large, strong beaks that help them eat any animal prey. They have powerful claws that help them capture their prey.



The eagle is one of the fastest animals; it can fly at speeds of 130 kilometers per hour. That is faster than a car can travel on a highway at the maximum speed allowed. It is an expert in using air currents and taking advantage of its aerodynamic figure to use the least amount of energy.



Another great attribute of eagles is their keen eyesight, which allows it to see its prey from kilometers away. The eagle is the fastest, most lethal, and strongest aerial animal in the world.

All eagles are carnivorous, they feed on other living things. Rabbits are a food source for them because there are so many rabbits, and they are easy to catch. They also eat fish, reptiles, and even monkeys. Some eagles eat carrion, decomposed meat from dead animals.

Eagles have only one partner throughout their life. They build their nest together in very high places, such as cliffs or sturdy trees. They use the same nest, so they are constantly rebuilding and repairing it. Their nests can become huge over time. The biggest nests measure almost 3 meters in diameter and weigh more than 450 kilograms.



Female eagles lay 2 or 3 eggs; the incubation period depends on the size of the eagle. The bigger they are, the more time the eggs need. The babies are taken care of by both parents until they are big enough to fly out of the nest.

There is a wide variety of eagles in the world, almost 60 species. One of the best known is the bald eagle, the national symbol for the United States of America. It has beautiful white feathers on its tail and head.

Another well-known species in the world is the harpy eagle, the largest in the Americas. It has such large claws and is so strong that it is capable of carrying animals that are three times its own weight. It is the national bird of Panama and Ecuador. Sadly, the harpy eagle is in danger of extinction.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# THE EAGLE

Answer the questions.



1. Fill in the blanks.

CARNIVORES - FAST - PREDATORS - HUGE - TEMPERATE

These birds of prey are \_\_\_\_\_. Eagles eat other living things, so they are \_\_\_\_\_. Their favorite climate is \_\_\_\_\_; they do not live in the polar regions. Eagles are very \_\_\_\_\_ birds and use air currents to exert less energy. They live in \_\_\_\_\_ nests that are very heavy.

2. Where do eagles usually live?

- a. In wetlands, near water sources.
- b. In desert areas, far from water sources.
- c. In very cold areas, with ice and snow.
- d. In cages where humans feed them.



3. The eagle is the fastest animal in the world.

- a. True
- b. False

4. According to the text, eagles have a keen sense of sight \_\_\_\_\_

- a. so they can see their prey from several kilometers away.
- b. because they are large animals.
- c. because they live in large nests.
- d. because they eat carrion.

5. Match the word given with its synonym with arrows.

- |           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| a. Fast   | 1. Ice cream |
| b. Lethal | 2. Powerful  |
| c. Strong | 3. Speedy    |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

6. What do you think the word creeping means in the text?

- a. They defend themselves.
- b. They crawl.
- c. They eat leaves and plants.
- d. They get wet in rivers and lakes.



7. What do eagles eat?

- a. humans, fish, reptiles, monkeys, and other dead animals.
- b. rabbits, fish, reptiles, monkeys, and other dead animals.
- c. rabbits, pumas, reptiles, monkeys, and other dead animals.
- d. rabbits, fish, reindeer, monkeys, and other dead animals.

8. Generally, eagles have only one partner throughout their life and \_\_\_\_\_

- a. build their nests in very low and easily accessible places.
- b. lay dozens of eggs every time.
- c. live with their mate in the same nest, rebuild and repair it constantly.
- d. This statement is false.

9. There is a wide variety of eagle species in the world. Think about the harpy eagle cited in the text. Circle the adjectives that that describe it.

Weak    Big    Strong    Powerful    Fierce    Lazy

10. The bald eagle is the national symbol for of the United Arab Emirates.

- a. True
- b. False