

# Eagle Exploration

## A Raptor Trust Story & Workbook

Bald Eagles are the symbol of our nation. They belong to a group of birds called "raptors." Raptors are predatory birds who hunt for their prey. Like all raptors, Bald Eagles have excellent eyesight, hooked beaks, and strong talons.

The Raptor Trust is home to two resident Bald Eagles: Colonel and Uno. Uno, the female, is much larger than Colonel, which is typical of their species. Except for their size, males and females look very similar. In adulthood, all Bald Eagles have a black body with a white head and tail. As juveniles, they have varying degrees of brown, white, and black over their entire bodies. They finally reach adulthood and fully molt into their classic eagle plumage at about five years old.



Uno was transferred to The Raptor Trust from a facility in Alaska. She was found as a young bird with a damaged eye and cannot be released back into the wild.

Colonel was brought to a rehabilitator after he was illegally shot in the wing. His wing was so badly damaged that part of it need to be amputated. Uno and Colonel are unable to hunt with their injuries, so they will live at The Raptor Trust for their entire lives.



**Bald Eagles can be found near lakes, rivers, and swamps, where they love to catch fish.**

Their excellent eyesight allows them to see more than a mile away while perched high up in a tree. Once a Bald Eagle catches sight of its prey, it swoops down feet-first and makes the grab with its sharp talons. When they aren't feeling up for hunting, Bald Eagles have also been known to scavenge for food that is already dead, or even steal meals from other raptors.



Bald Eagles use sticks to build incredibly large nests on platforms or in big, old trees. These nests, usually around 6 feet across and 4 feet deep, are called **eyries**. Eagle pairs come back to the same eyrie many times, adding new sticks, making the nests bigger every year. The largest eyrie was measured to be 10 feet wide and 20 feet deep-- and weighed over 4,000 pounds!

Bald Eagles were once **endangered** in the United States because a chemical called DDT caused their egg shells to become thin and break. Scientists used several different methods over the years to help eagles raise healthy babies and increase their populations. Happily, through a lot of hard work and strict regulation, Bald Eagles have made a remarkable comeback!



# Eagle Exploration

Find and circle the vocabulary words from the word bank.

B I R D A A U X I E E T I O R  
B Y U C V F I C Y Y J A R M F  
P U S R D O O E R R V L E F J  
C B W S Q J Z B O I H O H I B  
O C O C H W I J X E N N A S A  
L F O A I P R J T Z E S B H L  
O Y P V N R A L O I S A I S D  
N R U E V E J D P W T L L G E  
E I C N M Y N B C T C R I D A  
L V H G D O G U B G H A T Z G  
B E U E F G K K H W F P A T L  
E R N R K A M N U I W T T R E  
A M T Q J A F R Z T D O O E H  
K W S H U N O B I W J R R E G  
T T P R E D A T O R P E R C H

BALD EAGLE  
BEAK  
BIRD  
COLONEL  
EYRIE

FISH  
HUNT  
NEST  
PERCH  
PREDATOR

PREY  
RAPTOR  
REHABILITATOR  
RIVER  
SCAVENGER

SWOOP  
TALONS  
TREE  
UNO



# Eagle Exploration

Unscramble each word, then fill in the mystery word by copying the letters from the numbered boxes.

VECSEGNAR 

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EERIY 

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4

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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

# Eagle Exploration

Circle each item a Bald Eagle needs for a perfect living space.

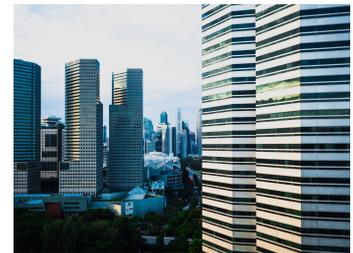
Habitat:



Nest type:



Nest Placement:

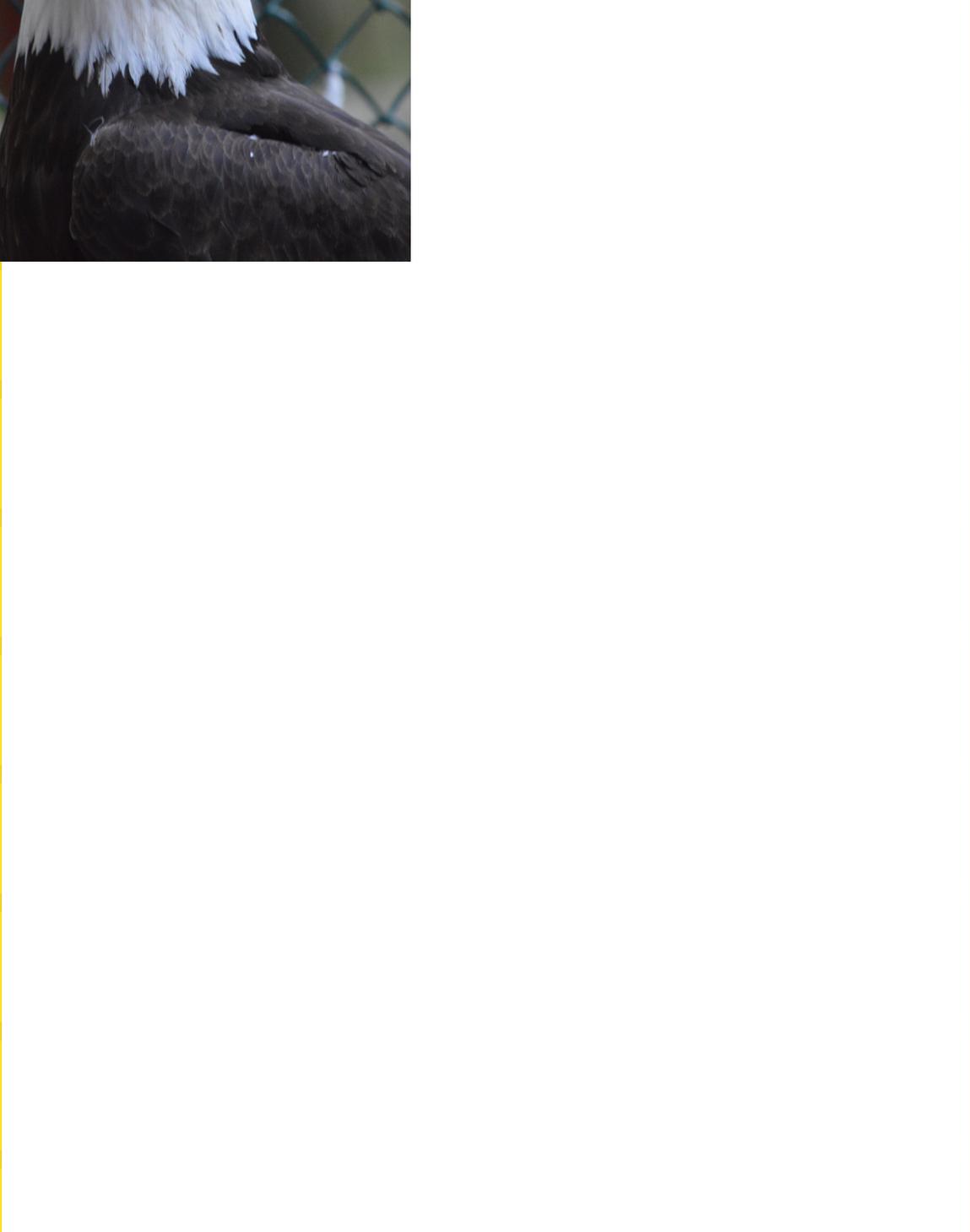


Food Type:



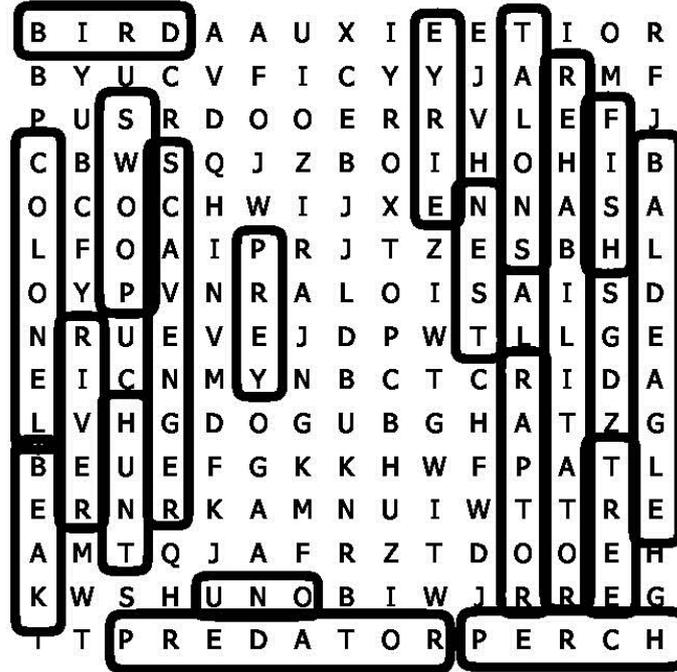


# Draw a Bald Eagle



# Eagle Exploration Answer Key

Word Search:



Word Scramble:

scavenger, eyrie, fast, swoop, tree, hunt, bald

Mystery Word: Eagles

Habitat Search:

Habitat:



Nest Placement:



Nest Type:



Food:

