

Kestrel Kraze

A Raptor Trust Story & Workbook



Kestrels are the **smallest falcons in North America** and they belong to a group of birds called "raptors." Raptors are predatory birds who hunt for their prey. All raptors have excellent eyesight, hooked beaks, and strong talons.



The Raptor Trust is home to two resident American Kestrels, Ollie and Zizi. Ollie is a male Kestrel and can be told from Zizi by the slate-blue feathers on his wings. Zizi's wings are a red color, called "rufous." Like all Kestrels, they both have black markings on their face; one next to their beak, which some people call a "mustache," and another "sideburn" marking right behind their eyes.

Ollie and Zizi were found separately, but they share a similar story. Both were found as babies who fledged early. **Fledging, or leaving the nest for the first time, is a big, dangerous step for a young bird.** If they take that first step too early, they may spend a few days practicing on the ground before taking off. Parents usually care for fledglings by bringing down food and keeping an eye out for predators.

The people who found Ollie and Zizi believed the birds were stranded on the ground and needed to be rescued. Unfortunately, instead of bringing them to a wildlife rehabilitation center-- such as The Raptor Trust-- these finders each took the birds into their homes for several weeks.



By the time these finders realized their mistake, it was too late for Ollie or Zizi to become wild again. **They had become reliant upon people, and would not survive on their own.** They now live as permanent residents at The Raptor Trust, where they help us educate others to not make this mistake.



In the wild, male Kestrels like Ollie search for holes in trees, called cavities, where they can raise their families. Females like Zizi will check each site and decide which one they like best. Cavities can be natural holes that form when a branch has fallen, or they can be made by Woodpeckers. People can help Kestrels by putting up man-made nest boxes to create artificial homes for these birds.

Kestrels enjoy a variety of foods, but they have to work hard to catch a meal. They sit perched high on a tree branch, pole, or wire and search the land below for small rodents, amphibians, reptiles, and insects. With a two-foot wingspan, Kestrels swoop down quickly before catching prey in their strong, sharp talons.



Ollie and Zizi never learned to hunt, so they are fed by the staff at The Raptor Trust, who ensure that they always have enough delicious critters to eat.



Kestrel Kraze

Find and circle all of the vocabulary words from the word bank.

Hidden Message from Ollie

Starting from the top left corner, write in every other unused letter.
The first two letters are M & I. You find the rest!

M I _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

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

BIRD
HUNT
NESTBOX
PERCH
PREY
SIDEBURN
WINGSPAN

FALCON
KESTREL
NEST CAVITY
PLUMAGE
RAPTOR
TALONS
ZIZI

FLEDGE
MUSTACHE
OLLIE
PREDATOR
RUFIOUS
TREE HOLLOW



Kestrel Kraze

Unscramble the words below. Use the hints to help.

- OLDU _____ (noisy)
- LAGIE _____ (quick & limber)
- WPSOO _____ (to dive)
- SNET _____ (bird home)
- DTISOEU _____ (not inside)
- TASF _____ (speed)
- ITYVCA _____ (hole in tree)

Place the first letter of each unscrambled word in the correct order to form this mystery word.



Kestrel Kraze

Kestrels all need cavity nests, food, and water to survive but they can find that in many different places. Match these kestrels with their dream habitats.

Kestrel A

Favorite food: Roaches

Cultural elements: Stunning architecture

Construction Materials: Stone or concrete



Kestrel B

Favorite food: Mice

Dream view: Fields of grain

Construction Materials: Natural wood

Design elements: Circular living room.



Kestrel C

Favorite Food: Frogs and insects

Design elements: Modern Boxy feel

Climate: Damp and humid



Kestrel D

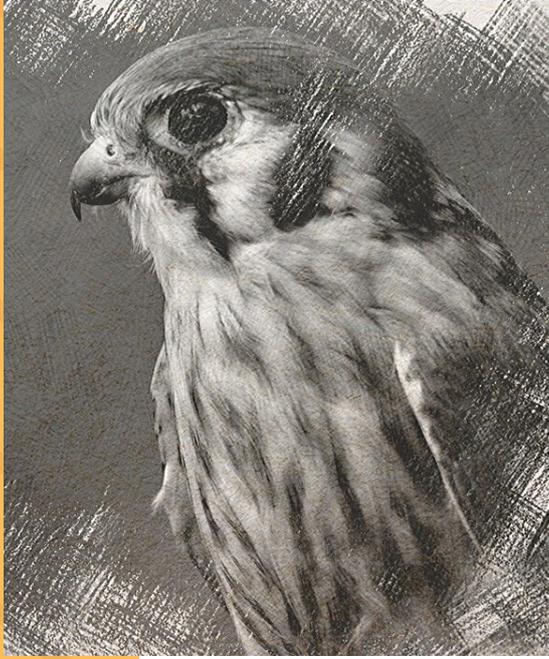
Favorite Food: Small Birds

Design elements: Camouflaged exterior

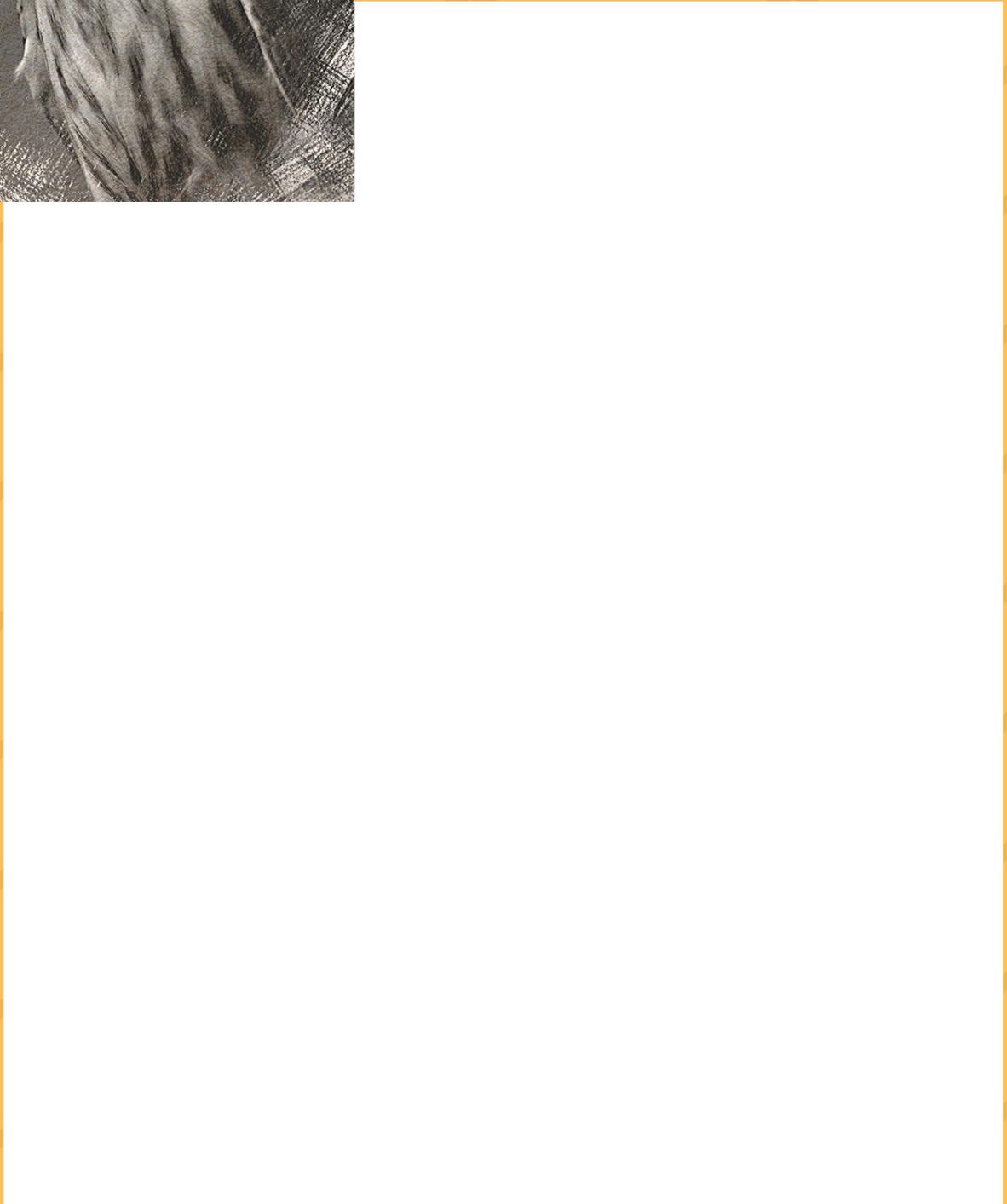
Cultural elements: Daily sporting events

Dream View: Freshly mowed green rolling hills.



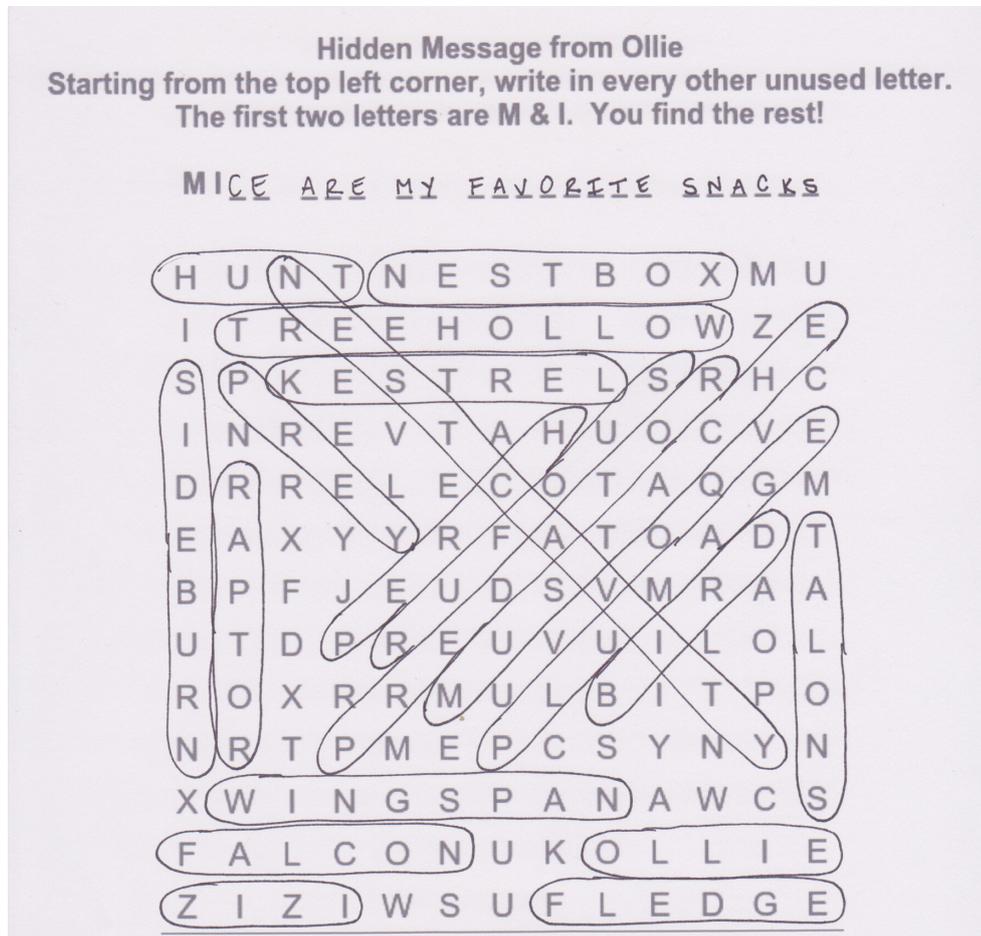


Draw a Kestrel



Kestrel Kraze Answer Key

Word Search:



Word Scramble:

loud, agile, swoop, nest, outside, fast, cavity

Mystery word: Falcons

Match the habitat:

Kestrel A- city

Kestrel B- farm

Kestrel C- marsh

Kestrel D- golf course