

BIRDS OF PREY

A bird of prey is a bird that hunts and eats other animals. Some can hunt large animals such as foxes, goats and deer.

Birds of prey are fierce and agile. They have fantastic eyesight and swift reactions. This means that they can spot prey from high in the sky and swoop down quickly. They may catch their prey before it knows it is being hunted.

Eagles, owls, hawks, buzzards and falcons are all birds of prey that live in the UK, but there are many more.

Eagles are often called the kings of the sky. They have extremely strong necks and beaks, and can grow to be very large. Two types of eagle live in the UK: the golden eagle and the white-tailed eagle. The white-tailed eagle has the longest wingspan of any eagle. Its wings can extend to over 2.5 metres!

Owls are nocturnal, which means they hunt at night. They have extraordinary eyesight, but they cannot move their eyes to look in different directions. This is why owls have such flexible necks - their heads can rotate roughly 270°.

This means they can see behind them without moving their bodies at all, making no noise the prey can hear.

Hawks are highly competitive creatures that fight even each other for the prey they hunt. They are extremely clever, and sometimes choose to hunt at dawn, when nocturnal animals are still awake. They also learn from their hunts, and work out ways to catch different animals.

Buzzards have broad wings and sturdy bodies. They spread their wings wide to ride currents of warm air, to save their energy. Buzzards descend or pounce on their prey, rather than chasing it. You may hear their distinctive call, which sounds a little like a cat mewing.

Falcons have slim, pointed wings that allow them to swoop and change direction quickly in the air. For hundreds of years, they have been trained to help hunters. The peregrine falcon even hunts other birds. It is the fastest animal on the planet: it can reach a speed of up to 200 miles per hour.

9 BIRDS OF PREY**FILL IN THE GAP**

Read the sentences and choose the correct word to fill in the gap. Look back at the paragraph about owls in Birds of Prey to find the correct answer.

They have extraordinary _____ but they cannot move their eyes to look in different directions.

This is why owls have such _____ necks — their heads can rotate roughly 270° .

This means they can see behind them without moving their _____ at all, making no noise the prey can hear.

Look back at the paragraph about hawks in Birds of Prey to find the correct answer.

Hawks are highly _____ creatures that fight even each other for the prey they hunt.

They are extremely clever, and sometimes choose to hunt at when _____ nocturnal animals are still awake.

They also _____ from their hunts, and work out ways to catch different animals.

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FIND AND COPY



These questions are about Birds of Prey.

Look at paragraph 2. Find and copy a word that suggests that birds of prey can move quickly and easily.

Look at paragraph 2. Find and copy a word that suggests that birds of prey can suddenly move downwards towards their prey.

Look at the paragraph about owls. Find and copy a word that suggests that owls' eyesight is unusually good.

Look at the paragraph about hawks. Find and copy a word that suggests that hawks want to be better than their fellow hawks.



MULTIPLE CHOICE

Circle the correct answer to the following questions.

Birds of prey have fantastic...

wings	eyesight	hearing	beaks
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Which of the following do some birds of prey hunt?

people	large animals	small animals	rabbits
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When do owls hunt?

at daytime	at dawn	at dusk	at night
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How fast can falcons fly?

200 miles per hour	2,000 miles per hour	270 miles per hour	300 miles per hour
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Which of the following birds is highly competitive?

eagles	owls	hawks	buzzards
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 **TRUE OR FALSE**

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Read the sentences. Put a tick in the correct box to show which sentences are true and which are false.

Eagles have very weak beaks.	True	False
Hawks are often called the kings of the sky.	True	False
The white-tailed eagle has the longest wingspan of any eagle.	True	False
The Golden Eagle's wings can extend to over 2.5 metres.	True	False
Owls can rotate their heads 360°.	True	False
Buzzards have sturdy bodies.	True	False
Falcons pounce on their prey.	True	False

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123 SEQUENCING



Look at paragraphs 1 and 2 in Birds of Prey. Number the statements from 1 to 5 to show the order they occur in the text.

A bird of prey is a bird that hunts and eats other animals.

They may catch their prey before it knows it is being hunted.

Birds of prey are fierce and agile.

They have fantastic eyesight and swift reactions.

Some can hunt large animals such as foxes, goats and deer.