



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

BIRDS OF PREY: EAGLES

1. Write a few sentences describing how eagles hunt their prey.
2. Which kind of eagle would you most like to see in real life? Why?
3. Which body part does an eagle use to grab its prey?
 - A. its long wings
 - B. its large beak
 - C. its sharp talons
4. What could happen to harpy eagles if people keep cutting down trees in the rain forest?
 - A. The eagles could die out completely.
 - B. The eagles could have more space to live.
 - C. The eagles could find and eat more food.



5. What does **migrate** mean in the *Eagles* book?

*Some eagles **migrate**. They travel to find food or warmer weather.*

- A. to move from one place to another
- B. to stay in the same place
- C. to become a different animal

6. What does **remains** mean in the *Eagles* book?

*Some types of eagles can be scavengers. They eat the **remains** of dead animals.*

- A. living things
- B. large areas
- C. leftover parts



ANSWER KEY FOR BIRDS OF PREY: EAGLES

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. C
4. A
5. A
6. C



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

BIRDS OF PREY: FALCONS

1. Write a sentence telling one reason falcons are able to fly fast.

2. Would you want to learn to hunt with falcons? Why or why not?

3. What is the largest kind of falcon?
 - A. gyrfalcon
 - B. peregrine falcon
 - C. falconet

4. Why would a falcon dive faster if it pulled in its wings?
 - A. Folded-up wings use more energy.
 - B. Folded-up wings can flap faster.
 - C. Folded-up wings won't be slowed by air.



5. What does **hurtles** mean in the *Falcons* book?

*This body shape helps the falcon gain speed. Soon, it **hurtles** as fast as a high-speed train.*

- A. eats food
- B. moves very fast
- C. slows to a stop

6. What does **traits** mean in the *Falcons* book?

*Their shape is curved. Their feathers are stiff. These **traits** help falcons fly fast.*

- A. stories that are not true
- B. facts about a person's thoughts
- C. details about an animal's body



ANSWER KEY FOR BIRDS OF PREY: FALCONS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. A
4. C
5. B
6. C



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

BIRDS OF PREY: HARRIERS

1. Write a sentence describing how harriers hunt their prey.

2. Harriers often eat rodents. What is your favorite food to eat? Why do you like it?

3. Where do a harrier's stiff feathers guide sound toward?
 - A. toward the bird's ears
 - B. toward the bird's eyes
 - C. toward the bird's feet

4. How does building nests among plants help harriers hide from predators?
 - A. No predators live in areas with thick plants.
 - B. Predators cannot find the nests as easily.
 - C. Predators will eat the plants instead.



5. What does **faint** mean in the *Harriers* book?

*The harrier listens carefully. It hears a **faint** sound. A mouse is running along the ground.*

- A. big and loud
- B. small or quiet
- C. falling apart

6. What does **pounces** mean in the *Harriers* book?

*The harrier **pounces**. It grabs the mouse with its sharp claws.*

- A. moves high up into the air
- B. moves slowly to run away
- C. moves quickly to catch prey



ANSWER KEY FOR BIRDS OF PREY: HARRIERS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. A
4. B
5. B
6. C



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

BIRDS OF PREY: HAWKS

1. Write a few sentences describing the life cycle of a hawk.

2. If you were a hawk, would you rather hunt alone or in a group?

3. What body part helps a hawk tear meat from its prey?
 - A. its strong talons
 - B. its long wings
 - C. its sharp beak

4. How would sitting on eggs help a mother hawk keep them warm?
 - A. Heat from the mother hawk's body would go to the eggs.
 - B. Heat from the eggs would go to the mother hawk's body.
 - C. Heat from the air could not reach the eggs.



5. What does **grasp** mean in the *Hawks* book?

*Hawks use their talons to **grasp** tree branches, too. They hold on tightly even while they sleep.*

- A. let go of
- B. hold on to
- C. tear apart

6. What does **escaping** mean in the *Hawks* book?

*A hawk's talons have a strong, tight grip. They keep prey from **escaping**.*

- A. changing shape
- B. staying still
- C. getting away



ANSWER KEY FOR BIRDS OF PREY: HAWKS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. C
4. A
5. B
6. C



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

BIRDS OF PREY: KITES

1. Write a sentence describing one way that kites hunt their prey.
2. Would you rather stay in one place all year or migrate back and forth like some kites do? Why?
3. Kites are mostly found in what kinds of places?
 - A. warm places
 - B. cold places
 - C. places with no water
4. How would having small bodies help kites fly with less effort?
 - A. Smaller bodies can have more feathers.
 - B. Smaller bodies take less energy to move.
 - C. Smaller bodies take more energy to move.



5. What does **gobble** mean in the *Kites* book?

*The young kites are hungry. They **gobble** up the lizard.*

- A. to hold still
- B. to run from
- C. to eat quickly

6. What does **social** mean in the *Kites* book?

*Mississippi kites are **social**. They often hunt, nest, and migrate in large groups.*

- A. never moving or changing
- B. liking to be alone
- C. liking to be together with others



ANSWER KEY FOR BIRDS OF PREY: KITES

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. A
4. B
5. C
6. C



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

BIRDS OF PREY: OSPREYS

1. Write a sentence describing how ospreys hunt their prey.

2. Would you want to see an osprey in real life? Why or why not?

3. What do ospreys mainly eat?
 - A. eggs
 - B. fish
 - C. eagles

4. Why would it be hard for birds to fly up from the water after catching fish?
 - A. The water is much lighter than the air is.
 - B. The water is harder to see than the air is.
 - C. The water and prey can weigh birds down.



5. What does **slippery** mean in the *Ospreys* book?

*Its wet feet grab the fish. The fish is **slippery**. But the osprey holds on tight.*

- A. hard to hold as a result of being wet
- B. easy to hold as a result of being dry
- C. hard to see as a result of being small

6. What does **confuse** mean in the *Ospreys* book?

*People sometimes **confuse** ospreys and bald eagles. The birds look similar.*

- A. to see an animal in nature
- B. to think one animal is another
- C. to change an animal's shape



ANSWER KEY FOR BIRDS OF PREY: OSPREYS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. C
5. A
6. B



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

BIRDS OF PREY: OWLS

1. Write a sentence describing one way owls hunt their prey.

2. Owls can live in both hot and cold places. Which type of place would you prefer to live in? Why?

3. Which body part do only some owls have?
 - A. wide, flat faces
 - B. large tufts on their ears
 - C. four toes on each foot

4. How would flying quietly help an owl catch prey?
 - A. The owl can sneak up on prey and surprise it.
 - B. The owl can hoot to scare its prey instead.
 - C. The owl can't fly as fast as its prey.



5. What does **swoops** mean in the *Owls* book?

*The owl's long wings fan out. It **swoops** silently down toward the grass.*

- A. makes loud noises
- B. flies high into the air
- C. flies smoothly down

6. What does **signal** mean in the *Owls* book?

*The sounds have different meanings. They may **signal** danger.*

- A. to cause something to happen
- B. to say everything is safe
- C. to give a message or warning



ANSWER KEY FOR BIRDS OF PREY: OWLS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. A
5. C
6. C



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

BIRDS OF PREY: VULTURES

1. Write a few sentences describing the main ideas of Chapter 3.
2. Vultures can live alone, in pairs, or in large groups. Do you prefer being by yourself or with others?
3. How many eggs do most vultures lay at a time?
 - A. just 1 or 2
 - B. about 23
 - C. more than 300
4. Why would it be easier for a vulture to look for food in an open area?
 - A. There is more grass for the vulture to eat.
 - B. There is more sunshine to keep the vulture warm.
 - C. There are no trees to block the vulture's view.



5. What does **bald** mean in the *Vultures* book?

*Feathers might get covered in blood. A **bald** head is easier to keep clean.*

- A. full of hair or feathers
- B. having no hair or feathers
- C. brightly colored

6. What does **descend** mean in the *Vultures* book?

*When one vulture flies down to eat, other vultures might notice. They **descend**, too.*

- A. to fly down
- B. to run away
- C. to make loud sounds



ANSWER KEY FOR BIRDS OF PREY: VULTURES

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. A
4. C
5. B
6. A