Deuteronomy 32:11 **As an eagle** stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings:

12 **So the LORD** alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.

Proverbs 30:19 The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a maid.

Ezekiel 1:10 As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle.

10:14 And every one had four faces: the first face was the face of a cherub, and the second face was the face of a man, and the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle.

Revelation 4:7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.

Revelations 12:14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

Exodus 19:4 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.

Job 39:27 Doth the eagle mount up at thy command, and make her nest on high?

Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Psalm 103:5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**Big Babies in Big Nests**

Wedge-tailed eagle males hunt [](http://www.globio.org/glossopedia/article.aspx?art_id=48)for food for their chicks until they are about 30 days old and then both parents share responsibility for hunting for meals.

Each year a pair of eagles may have one or two eggs, laid in a nest generally made of sticks. Large eagles such as the bald eagle of North America build nests over [1 m](http://www.globio.org/glossopedia/conversions.aspx?m=1) in diameter. Many eagles return to the same nests and continue to add sticks and branches. Some nests, such as those of the golden eagle, grow as big as a car!  A nest like this can be 100 years old and used by many eagle pairs over time.

Eagles make some of the most attentive and caring parents of all birds. Eagle babies, called chicks or [eaglets](http://www.globio.org/glossopedia/vocab.aspx?art_id=48&word_id=164&vocab=eaglet&art_nm=eagles), take longer than most birds to develop and learn to fly. **A golden eagle chick remains in its nest for over 3 months before it even tries to fly and then it needs to be encouraged out of the nest.**

**Site: Eagles to the Nest**

**Click “Lesson 1: Bald Eagles 101” and choose “Who Are They?”**

1. How many species of eagles are found around the world? **59**

2. The term raptor comes from the Latin word for **plunderer**, which stems from the term

“rapture” meaning “**to seize and carry away**.”

3. Search the page to find the answers to each question.

1st Group - Sea and Fish Eagles

(1) How many species belong to this group? **11**

(2) Where do they live? **Near water**

(3) What do they like to eat? **Fish and other animals that live in or near water**

2nd Group - Snake Eagles

(1) How many species belong to this group? **12**

(2) What do they eat? **Snakes, frogs, lizards, and other reptiles & amphibians**

(3) Where can you find these eagles? **Forests, deserts, and plains**

3rd Group - Harpy Eagles

(1) How many species belong to this group? **6**

(2) Where do they live? **Rain forests of South America and the Philippines**

(3) What do they eat? **Mammals, such as large monkeys and tree sloths**

4th Group - Booted Eagles

(1) What do they eat? **Termites, small birds, large mammals, and carrion**

(2) What one characteristic do all booted eagles have in common? **They have**

**feathers that extend down to their feet like boots.**

Identify each eagle by its group using **SF** for sea and fish eagles, **S** for snake eagles,

**H** for harpy eagles, and **B** for booted eagles.

**SF** American Bald Eagle **H** Harpy Eagle

**B** Golden Eagle **S** Bateleur

**S** Crested Serpent Eagle **SF** Steller’s Sea Eagle

**H** Black Solitary Eagle **B** Ayres’ Hawk Eagle

4. Where are bald eagles found? **Only found in North America**

5. Which is larger: a female or male bald eagle? **Female**

6. How did the bald eagle gets its name? **It’s name comes from the old English word**

**“balde” which means white.**

**Click “Back to Lesson 1” and choose “Looks”.**

7. How long is the beak of an eagle? **Almost as long as its head**

8. How is the beak helpful? **The beak is designed to help it eat fish.**

9. What is the hook used for? **The hook is used to pull and rip animal flesh.**

10. What does an eagle’s body need to be a good flyer? **Strong and light weight**

11. When an eagle flaps it’s wings, most of the **lift** that powers the eagle into the air

comes from the **downward** stroke. The **muscles** responsible for this motion are huge!

The flight muscles of an eagle can account for **half** of its total body weight.

12. True or False? Eagles have hollow bones. **True**

13. What is the weight of an eagle’s skeleton? **Half a pound**

14. What is the most important sense for a bald eagle? **Sight**

15. The bald eagle has a greater concentration of **cones** as compared to **rods**. The

greater the amount of cones, the finer the **vision** and the higher the **resolving** power.

This is the ability of the eyes to **focus** on objects at a **distance**.

16. True or False? An eagle can see as well at night as in the daytime. **False**

17. How many more times greater is the resolving power of an eagle than a human? **8**

18. How do eagles catch and kill their prey? **They use their feet.**

19. What term is used for the razor-sharp claws on an eagle’s foot? **Talon** How long can

they be? **Up to one inch long**

20. How many feathers does an adult bald eagle have? **Over 7000** How much would

they weigh all together? **21 ounces**

21. All feathers are made up of a substance called **keratin**, which is the same substance

that makes up our **fingernails**.

22. What are the three types of feathers found on an eagle’s wing? How are they used?

**Covert feathers - Adds thickness to the front of the wing allowing air to move**

**faster over the top of the wing.**

**Primary feathers - Can be spread out like fingers on a hand to reduce drag.**

**Secondary feathers - Move up or down to control the amount of drag.**

23. Pound for pound, an eagle’s wings are stronger than the wing of a **jet plane**.

**Click “Back to Lesson 1” and choose “Habitat”.**

24. What is a habitat? **It is the place where an animal lives.**

25. What four things does a good habitat need? **Food Water Shelter Space**

26. How old are eagles when they begin reproducing? **4** to **5** years old

27. How long is the incubation period for eagle eggs? **31** to **45** days

28. True or False? Eggs usually hatch in the order they were laid. **True**

29. What does the term “fledge” mean? **Fly** How old are eagles when they first try this?

**9** and **14** weeks old

30. What types of trees are used by eagles for nests? **Oak, hemlock, poplar, elm,**

**sycamore, and lodgepole pine trees**

31. Complete this paragraph describing the nest building process:

Bald eagles build their nests by placing sticks in **layers**. The first layer is placed in the

shape of a **triangle**. The following layers follow the triangular **pattern** but are rotated.

Each stick has others **woven** in-between. Eventually, after many, many layers, the nest

begins to take shape. A nest built of sticks would not be comfortable for sitting or for an

**eaglet** to grow up in, so the completed nest is lined with **moss**, **pine** needles, or **grasses**.

The finished nest might look messy, but is actually very **sturdy**. In fact, a **human adult**

can be supported in a bald eagle’s nest.

**Click “Back to Lesson 1” and choose “Foods”.**

32. What food makes up 90% of a bald eagle’s diet? **Fish**

33. What else will bald eagles eat? **Ducks, wading birds, turtles, rodents, snakes, and**

**carrion**

34. What is a “crop”? **It is an enlarged area in the esophagus used to store food.**

How does this help an eagle? **A full crop can help an eagle can survive at least 5 to 7**

**days without eating.**

35. Eagles, like all **raptors**, cough up or **regurgitate** the indigestible parts of their prey.

The **pellet** contains anything that is not digestible, such as **fins**, **scales**, fur, **bones**,

feathers, and **teeth**. These pellets can help **biologists** identify what an eagle is eating.