

A NATION'S BIRD



Read the following passage about bald eagles. Then, complete the activities to share your newfound knowledge!

A special bird

Bald eagles are a special bird in the United States, because they are our national symbol. These birds are famous for their "bald" heads, though they're actually covered in white feathers. They also have a bright yellow beak, and long talons to catch and carry prey. With a wingspan of six to eight feet, they are among the largest birds in the sky.

Moving across the country

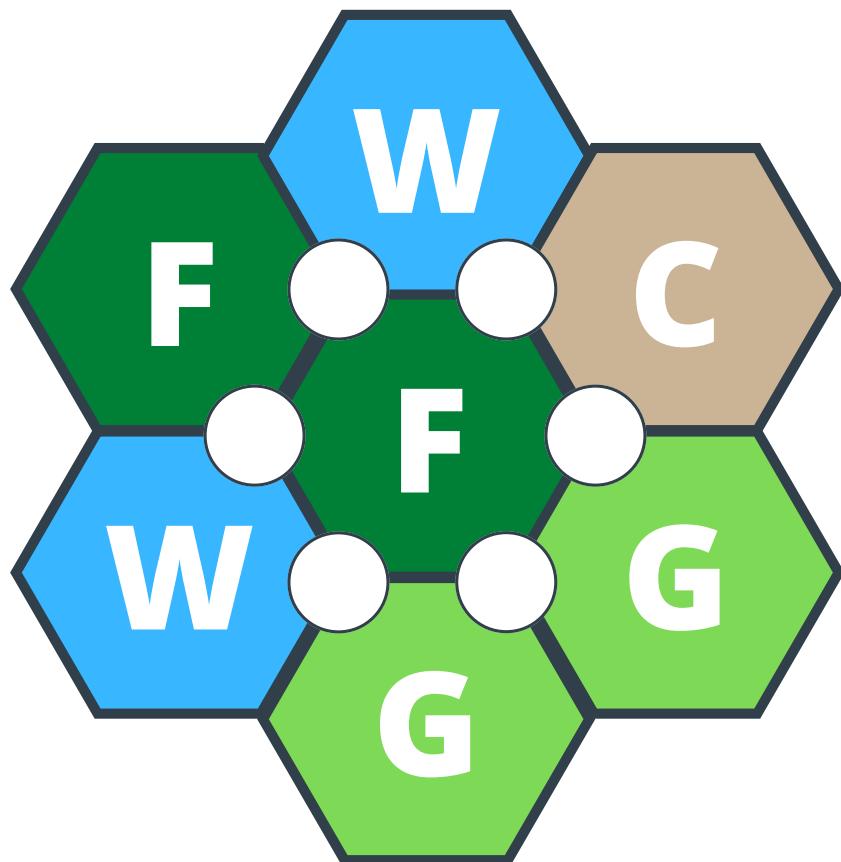
Bald eagles can be found in most of the United States, but only in certain places in certain seasons. That is because they migrate, or move from one place to another, to avoid weather that is too cold or too hot. In the summer, they nest in northern states, like Michigan. Then, they slowly fly south to spend the winter in warmer states, like Florida. In the fall and spring, they pass over all the land in-between, which includes Kentucky!

How to survive

Every animal needs four basic things to survive: food, water, shelter, and space. Bald eagles are carnivores, meaning they eat meat. They like to hunt small animals, like mice and snakes, which live in grasslands, and they especially like to hunt fish, which live in rivers and lakes. For shelter, they need tall trees to build nests in, so they usually live in forests, but they also need to be near those grasslands and water to find food to eat and water to drink.

Next time they pass through your area, try to find a bald eagle perched in a tree or soaring through the sky!

Based on what you know about what bald eagles need to survive, fill in the circle ○ that you think is best space for a bald eagle to build a nest in. Be sure to select a circle next to all of the things a bald eagle needs to survive.



What three things does your nesting space have that bald eagles need to survive?

_____ , _____ , and _____ .

In the map below, follow the path of a migrating eagle! In the boxes provided, write which season the eagle spends in each location. Kentucky's box is already filled out for you.

