



Bald Eagles

by Philip Mayer



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN



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HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT
School Publishers

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🔊 A big, strong **bird** flies high in the sky. It is a bald eagle. People like to watch this beautiful bird.

🔊 The bald eagle is not really bald. It has white feathers on its tail and head. The feathers on the rest of its body are brown.



Made to Fly

A bald eagle weighs between 6 and 14 pounds. A bald eagle's bones are hollow, **or** empty inside. Hollow bones are light. That is why birds can fly.

 The bald eagle has **long** wings that help it to fly high. Each wing can be seven or eight feet long!



Hunting for Food

A bald eagle has good **eyes**. As the eagle flies over the water, it can spot a fish a mile away! Then the eagle flies down and grabs the fish with its feet. An eagle will also **walk** in the water to get a fish.



🔊 Bald eagles are very strong. They can carry fish that weigh between three and seven pounds. If the fish is too heavy, the eagle swims with it to shore. The eagle uses its wings to paddle in the water.



🔊 Small animals like rabbits and mice must watch out for bald eagles. **Those** are the kind of animals that eagles like to hunt. A bald eagle can spot an animal on the ground from high in the air.

🔊 Sometimes bald eagles hunt together. One eagle scares an animal to make it run. Then the other eagle flies down to grab it.



Building Nests

Bald eagles build nests in the tallest trees they can find. The eagles make their nests from twigs and grass. They use feathers, too. A nest can be very big. It can weigh up to 2,000 pounds!



▶ The nest is a good shelter from wind and rain. It is a safe place for baby eagles to grow.

▶ **Both** parents bring food to the nest and feed the babies. After 12 weeks, the young eagles are ready to fly away.




🔊 Bald eagles often live near lakes and rivers where fish swim and tall trees grow. They also live near the sea. Bald eagles are found in most states in the United States. Hawaii is the only state that does not have bald eagles.



America's Bird

The bald eagle is strong and free. When people see the eagle, they think about America because it is strong and free, too.

 Americans are proud of the bald eagle, so they made it the national bird. The bald eagle stands for the best things about America.

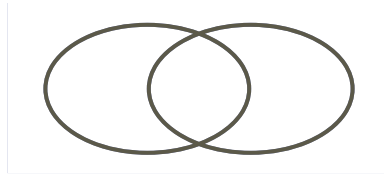
Responding



TARGET SKILL

Compare and

Contrast How are bald eagles like other birds? How are they different? Make a diagram.



Write About It

Text to World What do bald eagles look like? How do they get food? Where do they live? Write three sentences.



WORDS TO KNOW

bird

fly

those

both

long

walk

eyes

or



LEARN MORE WORDS

national

shelter



TARGET SKILL

Compare and

Contrast Tell how two things are alike or not.



TARGET STRATEGY

Monitor/Clarify

Find ways to figure out what doesn't make sense.



GENRE Informational text gives facts about a topic.

Level: L

DRA: 24

Genre:

Informational Text

Strategy:

Monitor/Clarify

Skill:

Compare and Contrast

Word Count: 420

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