



MONTANA OUTDOORS MAGAZINE LITERACY PROGRAM EVALUATION

“Raptors”

Name: _____

1. What did author Tom Dickson realize as a result of spending time with “the raptor experts?”

2. What is the origin of the word “raptor,” and what does it mean (see photo captions)?

3. How do raptors kill their prey?

4. List the six factors that Dickson focused on as he attempted to identify raptors.

5. Look at the photograph titled “Identifying Features” and read the caption. What is “sexual dimorphism?”

For the remaining questions, use Dickson’s “Good Enough Guide” on pages 21-23.

6. How are Buteo hawks different from Accipiter hawks?

7. Why are red-tailed hawks fairly easy to identify compared to other raptors?

8. How is the seasonal migration of the rough-legged hawk different from most other raptors?

9. The ferruginous hawk shows more _____ than any other Buteo hawk.

10. Why is it so rare to see a northern goshawk?



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11. How are the wings of falcons different from those of hawks?

12. Which falcon do you think would be easiest to identify if it were perched nearby? Explain your choice.

13. What distinction does the peregrine falcon have?

14. What is the most obvious difference between eagles and other raptors?

15. What is the best way to tell the difference between an immature bald eagle and an adult golden eagle?

16. What is unusual about the head of a northern harrier?

17. Why are ospreys found near lakes, reservoirs, or rivers?

18. What is different about the way turkey vultures get their food, compared to other raptors?



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Use the "Good Enough Guide" to take the raptors identification quiz. Put your answers in the spaces below.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

16. _____



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Teachers:

1. Here are some possible bell-ringers:
 - a. What is a raptor?
 - b. What's the difference between hawks, eagles, and falcons? (Note: Owls are also raptors, but are not included in this article.)
2. Give students a copy of the article. Have them read it silently, read it as a class, or read it to them.
3. Give students a copy of the evaluation (worksheet), and have them answer the questions.
4. If the assignment seems to be too much for the grade level you teach, consider assigning a certain number of questions (you decide how many, and each student gets to pick which ones they answer). Any questions they answer correctly beyond the required number can count as extra credit.

Answer Key

1. Even they do not always agree on which raptor they are looking at.
2. Latin – It means to seize or plunder.
3. They kill with their talons.
4. Time of year, wing or head shape, silhouette, flying style, coloration
5. Distinct differences in size and/or appearance between males and females
6. Buteo hawks have broad, rounded wings and short tails, whereas accipiter hawks have short, broad wings and long tails.
7. The red tail-feathers make it fairly easy to identify.
8. They spend their summers in Alaska, and their winters in Montana.
9. White
10. They live in remote wilderness areas.
11. Falcons have long, pointed wings.
12. Answers will vary.
13. Peregrine falcons are the fastest flying animal on Earth.
14. Eagles are bigger.
15. Immature bald eagles have bits of white on their body and armpits.
16. Their heads are owl-like.
17. They live near water because that's where they get their food (fish).
18. Turkey vultures don't hunt live prey. They are scavengers.

1. Golden Eagle

2. Cooper's Hawk

3. Merlin

4. Osprey



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5. Swainson's Hawk
6. Turkey Vulture
7. Peregrine Falcon
8. Ferruginous Hawk
9. Bald Eagle
10. Northern Goshawk
11. Northern Harrier
12. Sharp-Shinned Hawk
13. Prairie Falcon
14. Rough-Legged Hawk
15. American Kestrel
16. Red-Tailed Hawk