

Try these exercises to have fun and exercise the owl way!

# RAPTORS!

Raptors are birds of prey, which means they are predators that hunt and eat other animals. Hawks, eagles, falcons and owls are all raptors. Discover the amazing facts about these magnificent creatures on today's Kid Scoop page.

The word raptor comes from the Latin word *rapere*, which means "to grab and carry away."

## Adaptations

Raptors have three key adaptations making them excellent hunters.

**EYES:** Raptors have keen eyesight that helps them spot their prey from great distances. The Australian wedge-tailed eagle can spot a rabbit from about one mile (1.5 km) away. This is about three times farther than a human can see. Raptors can also see more colors than people, which helps them see camouflaged prey.

**BEAK:** They have a sharp, hooked beak for tearing their meat into bite-size pieces.

**FEET:** The sharp, powerful talons or claws of raptors are used to catch and kill prey.

**Standards Link:** Life Science: Students know that adaptations in physical structure may improve an organism's chance for survival.

## Raptor Code

Use the code to find out some amazing raptor facts!

Number of different kinds of raptors that can be found worldwide: **■ ▲ ★**

Speed a peregrine falcon can reach when diving after prey: more than **▼ ★ ★** mph!

The smallest raptor, the American kestrel, is about the size of a robin and weighs about **■** oz.

The largest raptor is the Harpy Eagle, which nests in tall rainforest trees of Mexico, Central and South America. It has a wingspan of over **□** feet.

### SECRET CODE

|       |       |
|-------|-------|
| ↑ = 1 | ▲ = 6 |
| ▼ = 2 | □ = 7 |
| ◐ = 3 | ◑ = 8 |
| ■ = 4 | ▼ = 9 |
| ▲ = 5 | ★ = 0 |

**Standards Link:** Life Science: Students know different animals inhabit different kinds of environments.



Stretch your arms wide apart and swoop around outdoors.

### Perch like an owl.



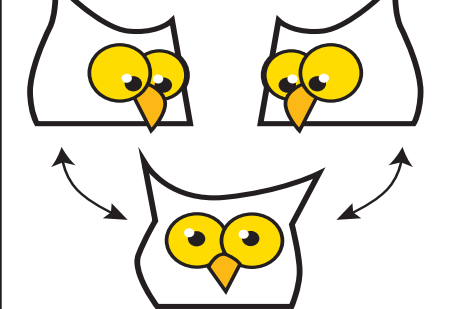
Squat down like you are sitting on a tree branch watching for mice on the ground. Fold your arms into wings with your thumbs in your armpits. How long can you stay in this position?

### Hop like an owl.



Start in the perch position. Then hop to the right, hop to the left, hop forward, hop backward.

### Twist and turn.



While sitting in the perched position, turn your head as far to the right as you can. Then turn your head as far left as possible.

## Types of Raptors

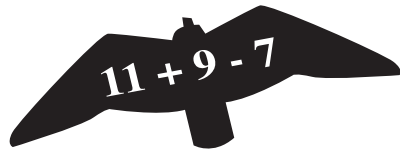
Read about these three raptors. Then do the math to match each one to its silhouette.

### Golden Eagle = 30

**Habitat:** Found throughout the Northern Hemisphere.

**Wingspan:** About 7 feet (2.1 m)

**Diet:** Usually small mammals such as rabbits and squirrels. Golden eagles have been seen attacking and killing pronghorn antelope, which are several times bigger than they are.

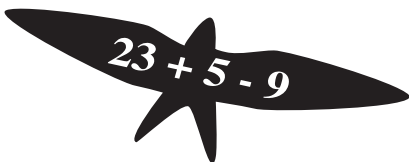


### Peregrine Falcon = 13

**Habitat:** Found on every continent except Antarctica.

**Wingspan:** 3.5 feet (1 m)

**Diet:** Mainly hunts birds and can typically catch their prey in the air.

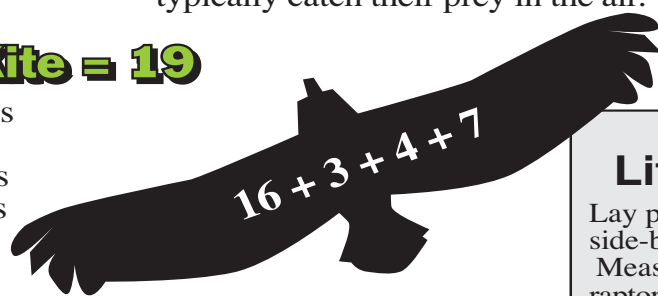


### Swallow-tailed Kite = 19

**Habitat:** Southeastern United States

**Wingspan:** 4 feet (1.3 m)

**Diet:** Slow-moving prey such as snakes, insects, baby birds and rodents.



Visit HawkWatch International's Web site to find more information about raptors. Discover places in your area where you can see raptors migrating. Learn how scientists study raptors using satellites at [www.hawkwatch.org](http://www.hawkwatch.org)

**Extra! Extra!**

### Life-size Silhouettes

Lay pages of the newspaper on the floor side-by-side and tape the edges together. Measure and mark the wingspan of the raptors mentioned on this page. Draw and cut out life-size silhouettes for display.

**Standards Link:** Reading Comprehension: Follow multiple step directions.

## Secretary Birds

The secretary bird gets its name from the crest of \_\_\_\_\_ on the back of its head. Some say the feathers look like \_\_\_\_\_.

It has the longest \_\_\_\_\_ of any raptor and is known for running – not flying – after its \_\_\_\_\_.

These unusual birds walk through the African \_\_\_\_\_, sometimes up to 20 miles per day, looking for food. They will eat insects, mammals, birds, tortoises, eggs and snakes.



Replace the words this secretary bird removed.

**Standards Link:** Life Science: Students know animals have structures that serve different functions.

## Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

- FALCON
- EAGLES
- PREY
- RODENTS
- SPEED
- OWLS
- RAPTORS
- COLORS
- BEAK
- EYES
- TREES
- DRAW
- SEE

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | R | O | T | P | A | R | E | E | S |
| K | A | E | B | S | S | E | E | R | T |
| S | R | A | P | T | I | R | E | F | A |
| P | S | Z | X | N | P | H | A | W | K |
| E | W | L | Z | E | V | L | G | L | B |
| E | A | Z | W | D | C | Z | L | J | S |
| D | R | Z | Z | O | U | Y | E | R | P |
| Z | D | Z | N | R | Q | W | S | Z | Z |
| C | O | L | O | R | S | S | E | Y | E |

**Standards Link:** Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

**Standards Link:** Physical Education: Understand the health benefits of physical activity and exercise.

## Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **SILHOUETTE**

The noun **silhouette** means a drawing or picture of the outline of an object filled in with a solid usually black.

The **silhouette** of the eagle could be seen against the bright sky.

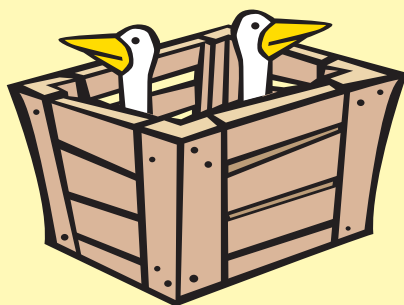
Try to use the word **silhouette** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family.

## FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

### Raptor Parts of Speech

Look through the newspaper and find five nouns, five verbs and five adjectives that describe one of the raptors mentioned on today's page. Write a paragraph about that raptor using facts on this page and the words you found.

**Standards Link:** Grammar: Recognize parts of speech in writing.



## What do you call a crate of ducks?

ANSWER: A box of quackers.

## Write On!

### Bird Report

Write a paragraph reporting on your favorite bird. Include at least three facts about this bird.

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