



Bald Eagle

Video description

Bald eagles live in North America near rivers and lakes where they can catch fish. They are great predators! Learn which physical features make bald eagles great hunters.

Objectives

- Children will learn about an animal's physical features.
- Children will learn how an animal's physical adaptations help it to survive.

Key content words

Talons, Eyesight

Skills

Observation, Comparison, Classification

Discussion guide

1 Introduction

Engage children in a discussion about different helpful abilities and talents that people have. Transition the discussion to different animal's abilities that help them survive.

Questions:

- Who do you know that is a really good cook? How is cooking helpful?
- Who do you know that is really kind? How is being kind to others helpful?
- Which animals can you think of that are really great at something? How does that help the animal?
- What do you think a bald eagle is excellent at doing?

2 Video discussion

Watch the video lesson with the children. Pause to discuss the following questions:

- What do you notice about the bald eagle's eyes? How are the eagle's eyes similar to people's eyes? How are they different?
- How does having large, strong wings help the bald eagle?
- How are the bald eagle's talons similar to and different from our fingernails?

3 Culminating discussion

Show children three photographs: a bald eagle, an osprey, and a pigeon.

Now that you know what features make the bald eagle a great hunter, which of these birds do you think is also a great hunter? What do you see that makes you think that?

Activity

HOW BIG IS A BALD EAGLE NEST?

Bald eagles build some of the biggest bird's nests in the world! In this activity, children will turn the class meeting area into an eagle's nest. One of the largest bald eagle's nests measured 9.5 feet wide (2.9 meters) and 20 feet deep (6 meters)! With a small group of children (3-4), use a standard unit of measurement to measure out the dimensions for a bald eagle's nest. Children can use blocks, branches, or another material as they transform the meeting area into an eagle's nest.

Family engagement

We learned about bald eagles today. Bald eagles are birds of prey, and they live in North America near lakes and rivers where they can catch fish. Bald eagles have a wingspan of between 6-8 feet (1.8-2.5 meters). Measure this length using a standard measuring tool with your child. Then, find something (or someone) that is as long/tall as a bald eagle's wingspan!