

Birds of Prey

Read the non-fiction text and complete the questions below.

Warm up

1. Do you know what a bird of prey is?

Which birds of prey do you already know? List any below.

Read paragraph 1.

2. How many different kinds of birds of prey are there? _____

(a) about 300? (b) exactly 300? (c) well over 300?

3. List three features that nearly all birds of prey share.

4. The writer believes this makes them a very good hunting machine.

Is this statement true or false? _____

Essential Vocabulary

5. Find a word in paragraph one that means 'as beautiful and as powerful as a king'.

Write it below:

_____ Do you agree with this description? Explain your response.

6. Circle the word 'plunge'. Is this a gentle or strong word? _____

Is it fast or slow? _____ Is it shallow or deep? _____

7. Show someone at home how you would plunge your hand into water or plunge yourself into darkness.

8. There is another fast word in this paragraph. Can you spot it? _____

9. The writer uses a powerful adjective to describe the bald eagle's size. What is it?

_____ What does it mean? _____

10. Circle the word 'stun'. What do you think this word means? _____

Show someone at home how a person might look if they were stunned.

Main Questions

11. From how far away can a bird of prey spot a rabbit's ears twitch? _____

12. Why aren't owls normally classified as birds of prey? _____

13. Which bird of prey (a) hunts on the ground? _____

(b) hunts from the sky? _____

(c) doesn't like hunting at all? _____

14. Which of the three birds is usually bald? _____

(a) the bald eagle? (b) the secretary bird? (c) the vulture?

15. List two reasons for this. _____

16. Why does the secretary bird not die from snakebites? _____

17. Which bird is the national symbol of America? _____

Why do you think America chose this symbol? _____

Reflection

18. Why do you think the writer calls these birds the 'kings of the sky'?

19. If you were to meet the writer, what type of person do you think they would be and why?