

## Bald Eaglet Observations

**Grade Level Range:** 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>

**Content Areas Addressed:** Science

**Group Size:** Whole Class and Small Group/Independent

**Duration:** 5 minutes of class time twice a week for one month

**Key Vocabulary:** Observation, Bald Eagle, and Eaglet

**Materials Needed:** Berry College Eagle Cam, observational logs, various materials for presentation

### **Lesson Objective:**

As an outcome from this lesson students will:

1. Be able to keep an observational log of changes in a baby bald eagle over time.
2. Be able to conduct research projects to help them gain knowledge about the different characteristics of baby bald eagles.
3. Be able to use their observational logs to describe the changes in a baby bald eagle over time in terms of size, weight, color, and movement.

### **Methods:**

Creating an observational log.

Observing the eagles for 5 minutes twice a week for at least one month.

### **Procedures:**

1. Tell your students about the project. Tell them they will be observing the Berry College eagles for a month to see how the eaglets change in terms of size, weight, color, and movement.
2. Explanation of observational log and how to properly fill it in
3. Observe eagles twice a week for 5 minutes for at least one month.
4. At the end of the observational period, students will work independently or in small groups to create a model (For example: poster, brochure, paper mache, etc.) to show how the eaglets changed.

### **Evaluation Alternatives:**

Assess the quality of the observational logs, making sure they are focused on the target changes.

Assess the model.

### **Background:**

The Berry College eagles usually lay their eggs in the month of January. The female will lay one to three eggs. The male and female take turns taking care of the eggs for the 35 incubation day period. After the bald eaglets are born, they are gray with soft down feathers covering their bodies. Their legs are too weak to support themselves, and they eat shredded pieces of meat.

The eaglets grow rapidly, adding one pound to their body weight every 4-5 days. By three weeks, they are one foot tall. They also grow a secondary coat of gray down feathers. Between four and five weeks, the eaglets are able to stand and by six weeks the eaglets are nearly as large as their parents. Black feathers will also start to grow in.

**Standards Addressed:**

**S3CS1.** Students will be aware of the importance of curiosity, honesty, openness, and skepticism in science and will exhibit these traits in their own efforts to understand how the world works.

a. Keep records of investigations and observations and do not alter the records later.

**ELACC4W7.** Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

**S2CS4.** Students will use the ideas of system, model, change, and scale in exploring scientific and technological matters.

c. Describe changes in the size, weight, color, or movement of things, and note which of their other qualities remain the same during a specific change.

**Resources:**

<http://berry.edu/eaglecam/>