

## DISCOVERING HOW EAGLES AFFECT ECOSYSTEMS

**Grade Level Range:** 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

**Content Area:** Science

**Group Size:** Whole class or small group (3-4 students)

**Duration:** 3 to 5 days

**Key Vocabulary:** ecosystem

**Materials Needed:**

Computer access or printed resources if computers are not available

Books about eagles

**Lesson Objective:**

The student will accurately demonstrate how the bald eagle affects its ecosystem through dramatic interpretation.

**Methods:**

The lesson will be introduced through group investigation.

**Procedures:**

1. The teacher will place students in small groups before explaining that in this activity they will be doing research in order to compose a skit about an eagle and its habitat.
2. In small groups, students will research the how the bald eagle affects an ecosystem.
3. The research will be used to create an informed skit about how the eagle affects the ecosystem. Each group will give details about only one element of the eagle's affects. When a group has decided, they must inform the teacher to avoid having multiple groups do a skit on the same thing (i.e. you want to avoid having all the groups give information about how the eagle eats fish).
4. Students will perform their skit for the class.

**Evaluation Alternatives:**

Students will be assessed on the accuracy of the information given in the skit (i.e. if students demonstrate eagles use flowers to build their nest, they will have points taken away). It would be best to use a rubric that gives points for factual accuracy, creativity, use of resources, and presentation.

**Background:**

Teachers will need to know basic information about eagles like, what they use to build their nests, what kind of food they eat, competition or rivals, threats to the eaglets, and when eagles nest. Throughout the lesson, the teacher will learn more about eagles and what affects and/or contributions they have on an ecosystem.

**Resources:**

I May Not Be The Tallest But... by Dan Jackson

The Bald Eagle by Lloyd G. Douglas

All About Eagles by Susan G. Charles

Inside A Bald Eagle's Nest by Teena Ruark Gorrow Craig A. Koppie

Bald Eagle Nest by Kate Davis

Soaring with the Wind: The Bald Eagle by Gail Gibbons

The Eagles are Back by Jean Craighead George

My Little Book of Bald Eagles by Hope Irvin Marston

<http://www.defenders.org/bald-eagle>

<http://www.animalfactguide.com/animal-facts/bald-eagle/>

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/bald-eagle/>

<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/animals/eagle.html>

<http://www.livescience.com/27317-bald-eagles.html>

<http://eaglenature.com/index.php>

**Standards:**

S3L1. Students will investigate the habitats of different organisms and the dependence of organisms on their habitat.

S4L1. Students will describe the roles of organisms and the flow of energy within an ecosystem.

Standard #3: Learning Environments

Standard #5: Application of Content