

Eagle's Basic Needs

Grade Level Range: 1st-2nd

Content Areas Addressed: Science and Language Arts

Group Size: Whole Class

Duration: 1 45-60 minute class period

Key Vocabulary: Bald Eagle, Prey, Predator, Nest,

Materials Needed: Berry College Eagle Cam, book pages, coloring materials, books on bald eagles, printed copies of articles on bald eagles

Lesson Objective:

As an outcome from this lesson students will:

1. Be able to identify the basic needs of bald eagles including their shelter, what they eat, how they breathe, and how they drink water.
2. Be able to use observational skills to identify the above needs while watching the Berry College Eagle Cam.

Methods:

Creating an informational booklet

Procedures:

1. Ask students to identify what they believe are the basic needs of a bald eagle. Confirm or deny answers. Come to a list that includes food, water, shelter, and space.
2. Tell students they will be watching the Berry College Eagle Cam and they need to make observations to find evidence for as many of the bald eagle's needs being met as the students may observe in seven minutes. Hand out the note-taking guide.
3. Allow the students to watch the Eagle Cam for at least 5 minutes. Leave it up for additional observation throughout the rest of the lesson.
4. Guide students in some additional research about the bald eagle's diet, how they drink water, how they build their shelter, etc so they can write a book about the bald eagle's basic needs. (~15 minutes)
5. After students have finished researching, pass out materials for making the Eagle Books and remind students they need to write about each of the four basic needs in their booklet and that they need to include a title, author, and illustrations.
6. Allow the students to use the rest of class to finish their books.

Evaluation Alternatives:

Assess the quality of the students' books and the information presented within.
Have the students present their book and assess their presentations.

Background

Bald eagles breathe air through their external nares that are the two slits near the top of the beak. The air goes into the lungs where it is passed into the air sacs. Then the air moves back through the lungs and out the naris. Bald eagles do not need to drink water directly from a freshwater source. Instead they are able to absorb the water they need from what they eat. Although it is not necessary, sometimes bald eagles will drink water from a freshwater sources while they are bathing. The bald eagle's diet consists of mostly fish however they will also eat small mammals such as squirrels or rabbits as well as other small birds. Bald eagles are both birds of prey and scavengers meaning they will hunt for their food and they will scavenge for food that is already dead. Bald eagles will seek shelter at the top of trees and in their nests.

Standards Addressed:

S1L1. Students will investigate the characteristics and basic needs of plants and animals.

b. Identify the basic needs of an animal. 1. Air 2. Water 3. Food 4. Shelter

S2CS7. Students will understand important features of the process of scientific inquiry.

d. Much can be learned about plants and animals by observing them closely, but care must be taken to know the needs of living things and how to provide for them.

ELACC1W2: Write informative/ explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.

Resources:

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

Soaring Bald Eagles by Kathleen Martin-James

Soaring with the Wind: The Bald Eagle by Gail Gibbons

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



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