

Grade Level Range: 4th to high school (with modifications to research gathering process)

Content Areas Addressed: Language Arts, Science

Group Size: Varied. 3-6 students per group. Multiple groups permitted.

Duration: 1st session: 45 minutes. 2nd session (if performed): 30 min.

Key Vocabulary: Bald Eagle, eaglet, nest

Materials Needed: Researched material on the eagles (provided below), poster board, scissors, markers, pencils, glue

Lesson Objective

1. The student will be able to present information in both written and verbal form to speak knowledgably about Bald Eagle nests.

Methods

Modification of the Suchman Inquiry Model

Procedures

1. The situation will be presented as Bald Eagles and the nest at Berry College. The teacher says, "Berry College has their own Bald Eagles. They live in their nests and I heard they may weigh up to 2000 pounds! I think we need to look into why are these nests are so huge? How they can be this big?."
2. The teacher tells the students they are going to do some research and present to the class their findings. The class gets split up into groups of students.
3. Rules:
 - a. The students are free to talk amongst themselves in their groups but not with the rest of the class.
 - b. The students must ask the teachers only yes/no questions as they develop their hypothesis as to why/ how these eagles nests are so large.
 - c. Once the students develop their hypothesis, they may begin working to prove their hypothesis valid or invalid.
 - d. If they experiment and find their hypothesis valid and confirm with the teacher, then construction of their presentation may begin (perhaps most appropriate to construct the presentation the next day or later that day since the research and developing and testing of the theory will take about 45 minutes.)
4. In order for the students to do their research, they will rotate around the room in their groups. Each station they rotate to will include different information about the bald eagles and their nesting habits.
5. There will be the following stations:
 - a. Pictures of Bald Eagle nests
 - b. Question and Answer information on Eagles
 - c. A computer with the Berry College Eagle cam pulled up with the information the website provides on eagles.
 - d. Bald Eagle Nesting and Young article.
 - e. Nature's Children: Bald Eagles by Emily J. Dolbear

6. The students collect the information they need from each station to produce their poster board presentation. The next session, students will construct their poster boards and will present to the class their theory on why and how Bald Eagle nests are so large and heavy along with the data they used that supports their theory.

Evaluation Alternatives

Instead of having students present a poster, students could appoint a spokesperson per group to present their theory and how their findings support the theory.

For older students: have them remain in groups, but do not provide them with the articles and pictures. Allow them time and resources like the computer lab and library for them to conduct their own research on the Bald Eagles.

Background

Students need to have background knowledge of informational texts and gathering data from informational texts as well as how to scroll on a computer website.

Resources

Nature's Children: Bald Eagles by Emily J. Dolbear

--See below for additional resources used.

Standards Addressed

ELACC4RI9: Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.

Research sources for student groups

- a. Pictures of Bald Eagle nests



b. Question and Answer information on eaglets

Q. About how long does it take for the bald eagle's eggs to hatch and how long until it can fly?

A. It takes 35 days to hatch, then young in nest 10-12 weeks more until they fledge (fly from nest).

Q. How old are they before young eagles can fly?

A. At 10-12 weeks, when they leave their nest.

Q. When do eagles learn to fly and how?

A. At between 10-12 weeks as they first leave the nest (fledge), and then with more and more practice to and from the nest and surrounding trees over the next month or two.

Q. How old does a baby have to be to leave its mother?

A. 10-12 weeks to leave the nest, although fledglings then often stay around "learning from their parents and honing their flying and feeding skills for another 1-2 months.

Q. Why do bald eagles have such big nests if they only have two eggs?

A. They are large birds and their young become quite large, demanding of lots of space to fit all the birds and their 6 foot plus wings.

<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/www/critters/eagle/826572782.html>

c. www.berry.edu/eaglecam

d. <http://www.baldeagleinfo.com/eagle/eagle4.html>