Worksheet 3 Year 3 Reading

Birds of Prey

A bird of prey is a bird that hunts or eat other animals. Some can hunt large animals such as foxes, goats and deer.

Birds of prey are fierce and agile. They have fantastic eyesight and swift reactions. This means that they can spot prey from high in the sky and swoop down quickly. They may catch their prey before it knows it is being hunted.

Eagles, owls, hawks, buzzards and falcons are all birds of prey that live in the UK, but there are many more.

Eagles are often called the king of the sky. They have extremely strong necks and beaks, and can grow to be very large. Two types of eagle live in the UK: the golden eagle and the white-tailed eagle. The white-eagle has the longest wingspan of any eagle. Its wings can extend to over 2.5 metres.

Owls are nocturnal, which means they hunt at night. They have extraordinary eyesight, but they cannot move their eyes to look in different directions. This is why owls have such flexible necks – their heads can rotate roughly 270 degrees. This means they can see behind them without moving their bodies at all, making no noise the prey can hear.

Hawks are highly competitive creatures that fight even each other for the prey they hunt. They are extremely clever, and sometimes choose to hunt at dawn, when nocturnal animals are awake. They also learn from their hunts, and work out ways to catch different animals.

Buzzards have broad wings and sturdy bodies. They spread their wings wide to ride currents of warm air, to save their energy. Buzzards descend or pounce on their prey, rather than chasing it. You may hear their distinctive call, which sounds like a little cat mewing.

Falcons have slim, pointed wings that allow them to swoop and change direction quickly in the air. For hundreds of years, they have been trained to help hunters. The peregrine falcon even hunts other birds. It is the fastest animal on the planet: it can reach a speed of up to 200 miles an hour.

Questions

Read the sentences and choose the correct word to fill in the gap. Look back at the paragraph about owls to find the correct answer.

They have extraordinary _____, but they cannot move their eyes to look in different directions.

This is why owls have such _____ necks – their heads can rotate roughly 270 degrees.

This means they can see behind them without moving their _____ at all, making no noise the prey can hear.

Look back at the paragraph about hawks to find the correct answer.

Hawks are highly _____ creatures that fight even each other for the prey they hunt.

They are extremely clever and sometimes choose to hunt at _____, when nocturnal animals are still awake.

They also _____ from their hunts, and work out ways to catch different animals.

Look back at the paragraph about falcons to find the correct answer.

Falcons have slim, pointed wings that allow them to swoop and change _____ in the air.

For hundreds of years, they have been _____ to help humans.

The peregrine falcon even hunts other _____.

It is the fastest animal on the planet: it can reach a speed of up to _____ miles per hour.

Read the sentences. Put a tick in the correct box to show which sentences are *true* and which are *false.*

Statement	**True**	**False**
Eagles have very weak beaks.		
Hawks are often called kings of the sky.		
The white-tailed eagle has the longest wingspan of any eagle.		
The Golden Eagle's wings can extend to over 2.5 metres.		
Owls can rotate their heads 360 degrees.		
Buzzards have sturdy bodies.		
Falcons pounce on their prey.		
Owls sound like a cat mewing.		
Falcons can reach a speed of up to 2000 miles per hour.		
Owls have eyes in the back of their heads.		
Hawks always hunt during the day.		
Owls are nocturnal.		
Falcons can change directions quickly in the air.		
Hawks will fight each other for prey.		
Peregrine falcons even hunt other birds.		

Answers

Fill in the gap

1.eyesight

2. flexible

3. bodies

4. competitive

5. dawn

6. learn

7. direction

8.trained

9.birds

10.200

True or False

1. False
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. False
6. True
7. False
8. False
9. False
10. False
11. False
12. True
13. True
14.True
15. True