

The Bald Eagle (A2)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Are you interested in birds? If so, which ones? Why?
2. What are the most common birds in your region, apart from pigeons?
3. Are there any eagles in your country? If so, where can you see them?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and choose the correct answer.

1. The bald eagle is not native to North America.
a) True. b) False. c) The article doesn't say.
2. Its tail is
a) yellow. b) dark brown. c) the same colour as its head.
3. The bald eagle became the symbol of America in
a) 1782. b) 1806. c) 1776.
4. Eagles are known for their incredibly good
a) hearing. b) sense of smell. c) eyesight.
5. Nobody in the United States is allowed to possess bald eagle feathers nowadays.
a) True. b) False. c) The article doesn't say.
6. Bald eagles at risk of extinction.
a) are now not b) are still c) were never

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Who was against the use of the bald eagle as a national emblem of the United States? Why?
2. What are bald eagles like when they are very young?
3. Why is the name *bald eagle* misleading?
4. What possible explanation is there for the name?
5. What do eagles use to grab their prey?
6. Why do many Native American tribes use bald eagle feathers in their spiritual ceremonies?
7. When did it become illegal to kill bald eagles in the US?
8. Why did their population continue to decline after this law was passed?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from plural to singular.)

1. Joe wasn't well enough to play football last week, but luckily he _____ before the big match.
2. In Greek mythology, Paris killed Achilles by shooting him in the heel with an _____.
3. In 1995, Parliament _____ a law making the state pension age the same for men and women
4. I'm sure the animal we saw was a fox not a dog. It had a long bushy _____.
5. A banknote is usually called a _____ in the United States.
6. Chloe and Tom disagreed about who to invite to the party. They _____ over it for weeks.

E – Ready for the A2 KEY English Test? (Paper 1, Part 4)

Choose the best word for each space.

Eagles are ¹ _____ (*admiring/admiration/admired*) for their courage, strength and independence. This is why their image has always ² _____ (*used/been used/using*) by kings and emperors throughout history.

In classical mythology, the eagle represented the Greek god Zeus and the Roman god Jupiter, who controlled ³ _____ (*every/each/all*) forces of nature. The Romans believed the eagle could create strong winds ⁴ _____ (*by/with/for*) flapping its wings, and that it therefore controlled the weather. Roman emperors chose the eagle as a symbol of their power.

Many nations ⁵ _____ (*besides/above/apart*) the United States have the eagle as their state emblem: Poland, Germany, Russia, Austria, to name just a ⁶ _____ (*little/few/lot*). Some, like Egypt, Mexico and Serbia also have it on their national flag.

F – Check your pronunciation

One of the four words in each group has a different vowel sound. Which one?

1. scan national change character
2. peredator feather threat eagle
3. head meaning beak believe
4. covered colonies government colour
5. called bald law brown
6. turkey word born bird

G – Write about it

Write about an attractive bird that lives in your country. Mention:

- what it looks like
- what it eats;
- where it lives;
- where it makes its nest;
- what its call or song is like;
- whether it is associated with any qualities or legends.

Answers

B – Listen and answer

1. b 2. c 3. a 4. c 5. b 6. a

C – Read and answer

1. Benjamin Franklin was against it because he considered the bald eagle to be “a bird of bad moral character”. 2. They have a brown beak, eyes and feathers. 3. Because the bird isn’t bald. It’s covered in feathers. 4. It may come from an Old English word “balde”, meaning white, and referring to its head. 5. They use their talons. 6. Because they believe that eagles are sacred and that they carry messages between humans and the Creator. 7. In 1940. 8. Because of overhunting, habitat loss and, above all, the use of DDT.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. recovered 2. arrow 3. passed 4. tail 5. bill 6. argued

E – Ready for the A2 KEY English Test?

1. admired 2. been used 3. all 4. by 5. besides 6. few

F – Check your pronunciation

1. change 2. eagle 3. head 4. colonies 5. brown 6. born