



Welcome!

On behalf of Splash! Publications, we would like to welcome you to *The Bald Eagle*, one of 13 lessons in our *National Symbols Unit*. This lesson was designed by teachers with you and your students in mind.

The Format

Our goal is a lesson that you can use as a Whole Group or in a Center immediately. No comprehension questions to write or activities to create. Simply make copies of the lesson for your students and start teaching.

The Lesson Plan

Before reading about *The Bald Eagle*, activate prior knowledge by asking students to help you list the differences between eagles and turkeys. Record the list on the front board or overhead. Explain that today, they will be learning about the Bald Eagle and why it was chosen over a turkey as the national bird of the United States.

After reading about *The Bald Eagle*, students will:

- answer *The Bald Eagle* Reading Comprehension Questions.
- make and play the game Find the Fib.

Note: Answers to the comprehension questions and grading charts are at the end of the lesson.

Our Other National Symbols Lessons

The American Flag, The Great Seal, The United States Capitol, The Liberty Bell, The Statue of Liberty, The Washington Monument, The Jefferson Memorial, The Lincoln Memorial, The Golden Gate Bridge, Mount Rushmore, The Gateway Arch, and The Empire State Building.

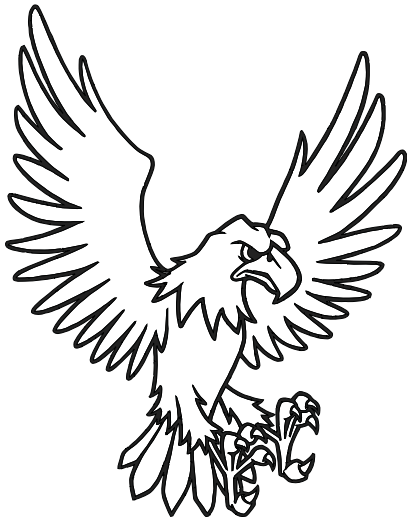


The Bald Eagle

The bald eagle is the national bird of the United States. A bald eagle is in the center of the Great **Seal** of the United States. A seal is a picture. It shows symbols that are important to our country.

Eagles are on paper money and most stamps in our country. Gold coins, silver dollars, and quarters also have eagles on them.

Bald Eagles



Bald eagles aren't really bald. Their name comes from the old English word, "balde." The word balde means white. The feathers on the top of a bald eagle's head are white.

Bald eagles eat fish that they are able to grab from the water with their sharp **talons**. Talons are claws. Bald eagles also eat ducks, small animals, and turtles.

Bald eagles have white heads and upper necks. They have white tails, dark brown bodies, and yellow bills. The nests of bald eagles can be seven or eight feet across. They usually build their nests in tall trees.

The Great Seal

In 1782, the United States was only a few years old. Rules needed to be made. Leaders needed to be chosen. There was a lot of work to do!

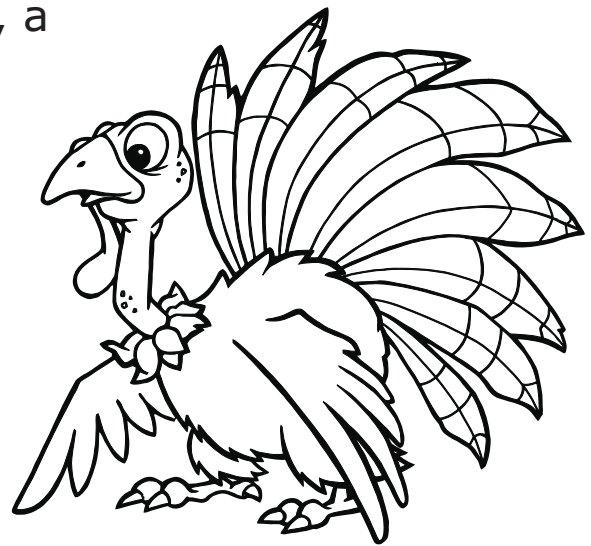
A new country must design a seal. The leaders of the United States wanted to create a seal that showed how important freedom was to our country. They chose an eagle as the symbol of freedom for the Great Seal of the United States.

A Lazy Bird

Benjamin Franklin was not happy that the United States chose the bald eagle as its national bird. He felt that the bald eagle was a lazy bird.

Instead of hunting for itself, a bald eagle sits in a dead tree and watches another bird catch a fish. Once the fish is caught, the bald eagle chases after the other bird and takes the fish right from its mouth.

Benjamin Franklin wanted the turkey to be our national bird. Turkeys attacked the British soldiers during the Revolutionary War. Benjamin Franklin felt that the turkey was a bird of courage.



Name _____

★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ★ **The Bald Eagle** ★ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★

1. The bald eagle is our national –
 - a. flower
 - b. bird
 - c. tree

2. **Talons** are –
 - a. wings
 - b. turtles
 - c. claws

3. Benjamin Franklin thought the bald eagle was –
 - a. strong
 - b. ugly
 - c. lazy

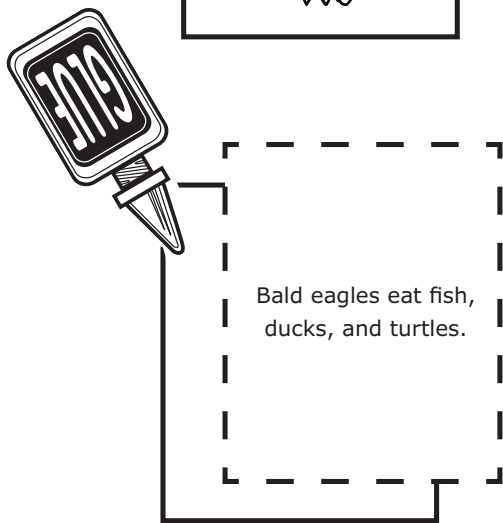
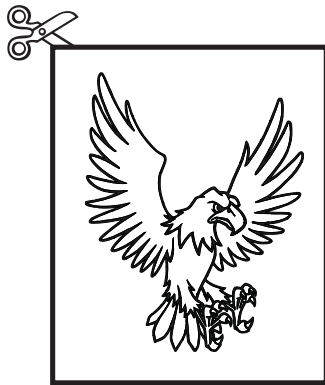
4. Do you agree with Benjamin Franklin? Explain the reason for your answer.

Find the Fib

A fib is something that is not true. In this activity, you will make a game called Find the Fib. Then you will see if your friends can tell the difference between the truth and a fib.

Directions:

1. Neatly color the pictures of the bald eagles and the turkeys on the 12 cards.
2. Cut out each card.
3. Choose 9 true facts. Cut out the facts. Glue them onto the blank side of 9 of your cards.
4. Choose 3 fibs. Cut out the fibs. Glue them onto the blank side of 3 of your cards.
5. Mix up your cards.
6. Number the cards from 1 to 12.
7. Make an answer sheet so you will know which facts are true and which facts are fibs.
8. Give your cards to a friend. See if your friend can tell which cards are the facts and which cards are the fibs!



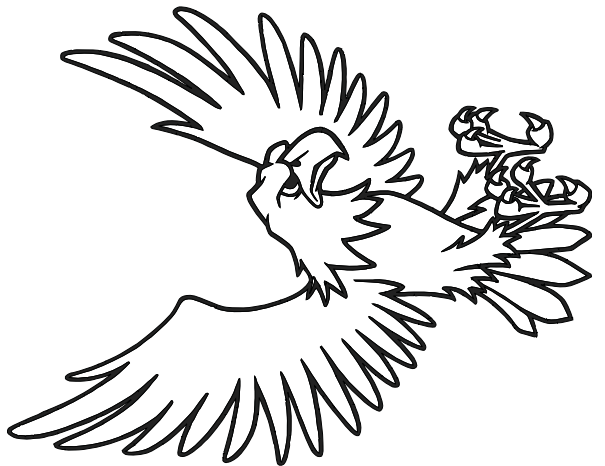
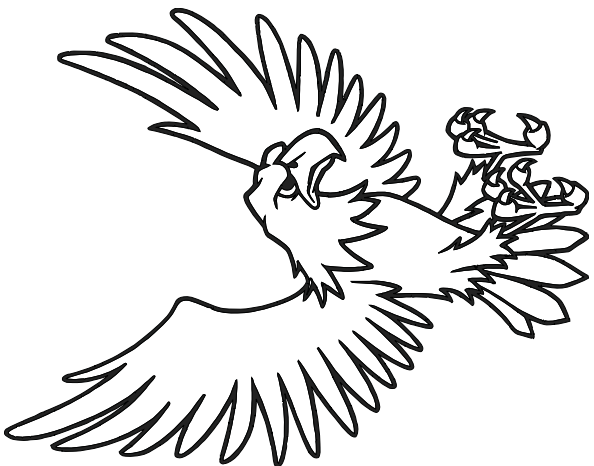
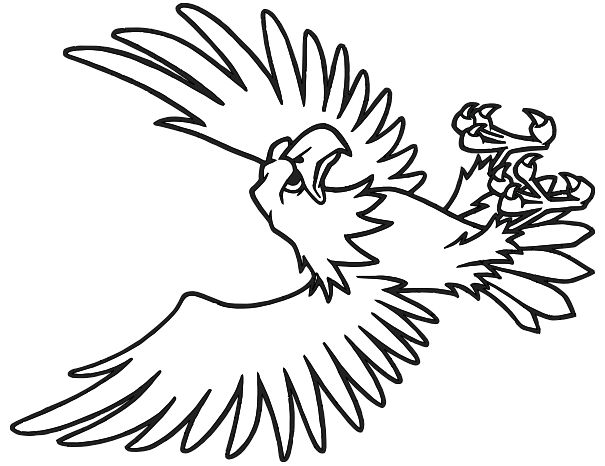
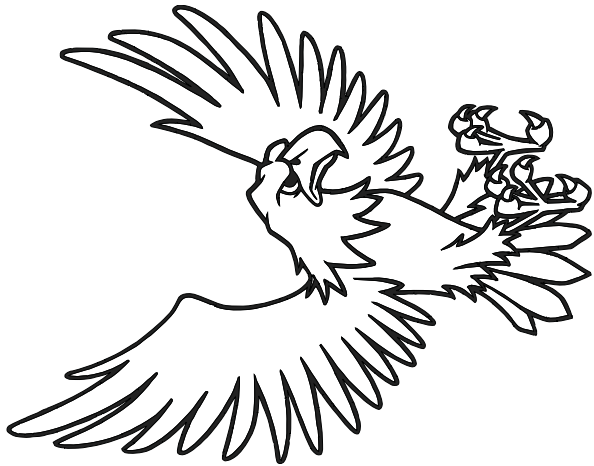
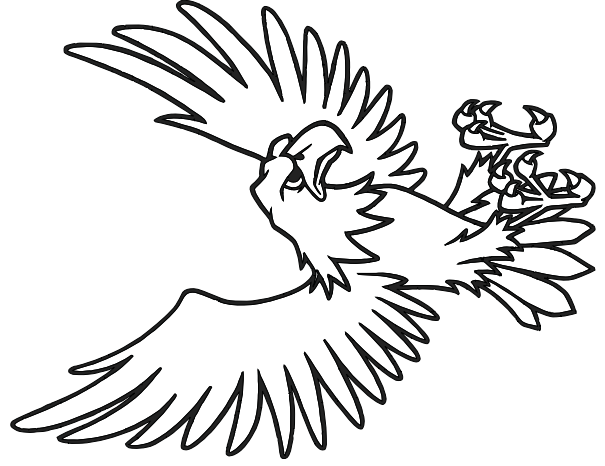
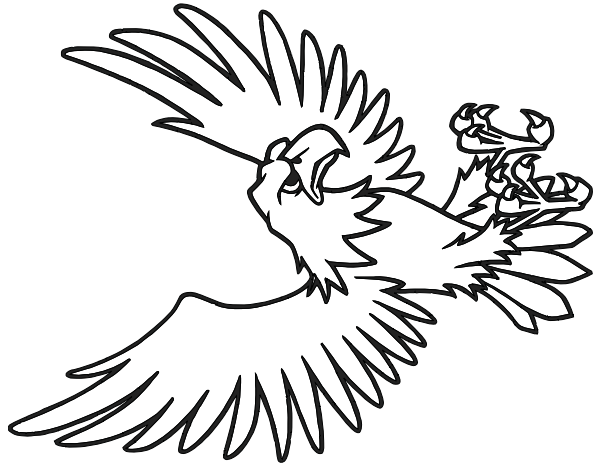


Find the Fib Answer Sheet

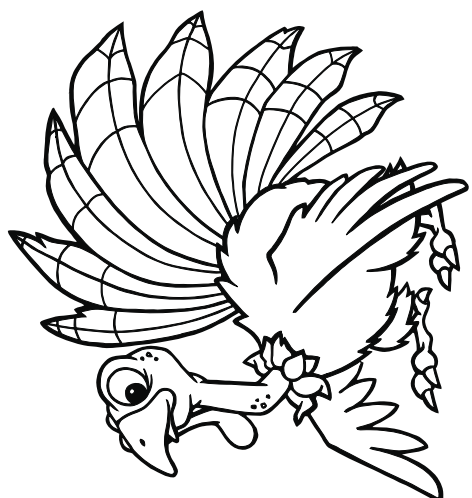
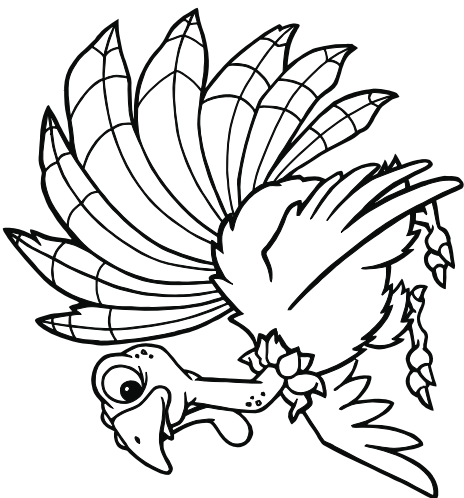
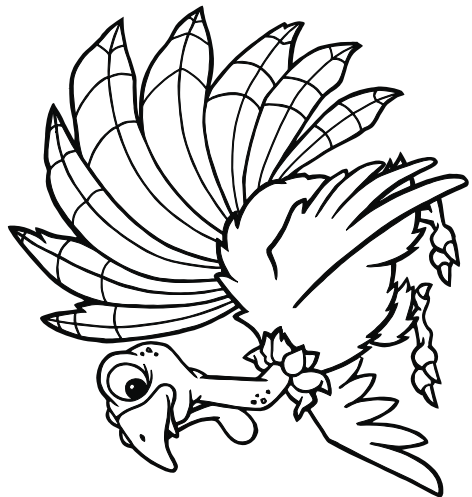
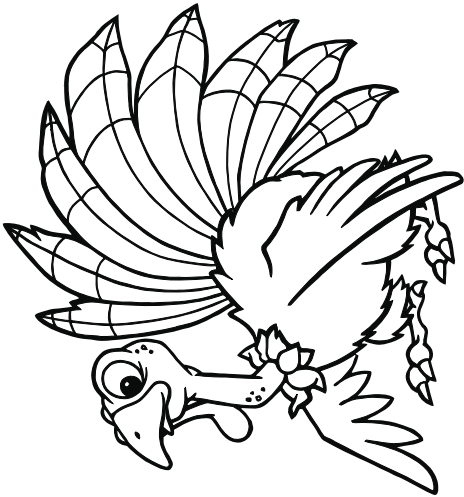
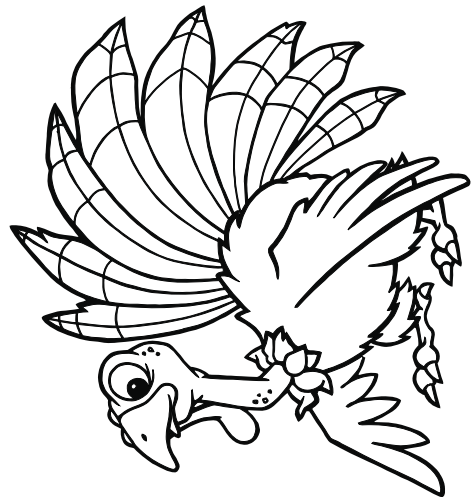
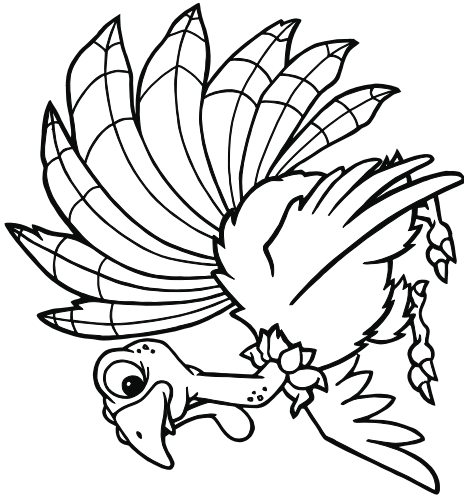
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____



Bald Eagle Cards



Turkey Cards



True Facts

card number _____	card number _____	card number _____
The bald eagle is the national bird of the United States.	Benjamin Franklin wanted a turkey as our national bird.	Bald eagles can be found on gold coins.
card number _____	card number _____	card number _____
Turkeys have feathers.	Bald eagles have white heads.	Turkeys attacked British soldiers during the Revolutionary War.

True Facts

card number _____	card number _____	card number _____
Bald eagles have sharp talons.	Benjamin Franklin thought the turkey was a bird of courage.	Bald eagles steal fish from other birds.
A bald eagle is pictured on the Great Seal of the United States.	Turkeys have long necks.	Bald eagles build their nests in tall trees.

Fibs

card number _____

The turkey is the national bird of the United States.

card number _____

Bald eagles are really bald.

card number _____

Turkeys can be found on quarters.

card number _____

Bald eagles build very small nests.

card number _____

Benjamin Franklin thought that turkeys were lazy birds.

card number _____

Bald eagles share their food with other birds.



Answers

Comprehension Questions The Bald Eagle

1. b
2. c
3. c
4. Answers will vary, but should include whether or not child agrees with Benjamin Franklin and the reason why.

Find the Fib Grading Chart

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
Cut out and colored 6 Bald Eagle cards	24 (4 pts. each)	
Cut out and colored 6 Turkey cards	24 (4 pts. each)	
Cut out and correctly glued 9 true facts onto cards	18 (2 pts. each)	
Cut out and correctly glued 3 fibs onto cards	6 (2 pts. each)	
Numbered each card	12 (1 pt. each)	
Made an answer sheet	6	
Neatness	10	
Total	100	