



Hunters of the Sky

An Activity Guide on Birds of Prey



IN A NUTSHELL

Educational Resources
Science Museum of
Minnesota
120 West Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55102

phone:
(800) 221-9444 ext. 4543
fax: (651) 221-4777
website: www.sci.mus.mn.us/

Cost: \$7.95

SUBJECTS

Economics
Fine Arts
Language Arts
Science
Social Studies

These eleven activities are designed both to teach about raptors and to use raptors as a starting point for the investigation of environmental issues. The activities introduce students to the basic identification of raptors and their adaptations. Students explore owl pellets, create different models of paper airplanes to simulate different wing types, examine raptor feathers, and conduct exercises comparing monocular and binocular vision. The last two activities involve the students in thinking about raptor issues. One simulates a town meeting in which the protection of bald eagle habitat is discussed. The other uses a set of "dilemma cards" so that students can develop appropriate solutions to common management issues. Each activity identifies thinking skills used, needed materials, and extension ideas. Student handouts, teacher background information, an annotated bibliography, and a list of supply sources are included.

Grade Level
3-12
Length
44 pages
Date Published
1994

THE BOTTOM
LINE

"Materials offer a variety of activities which should excite youth. Bird of prey activities are usually a hit with students."

What the REVIEWERS Said !	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
	Fairness and Accuracy	Different points of view are given. Balanced presentation.	Unclear who reviewed material.
	Depth	Strong on developing awareness of raptor issues. Includes social, economic and historic contexts.	Focus is largely on how raptors impact their local ecosystem.
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Challenges readers to hypothesize about outcomes of certain actions. Uses observing, comparing and contrasting skills.	
	Action Orientation	Promotes civic responsibility and encourages students to reach consensus with those of differing views.	Little information on raptor conservation projects.
	Instructional Soundness	Uses mixture of student-centered and teacher-directed activities. Addresses different learning styles.	Most activities are classroom-based. Does not list age level for activities.
	Usability	Lessons are clear with simple instructions. Provides telephone numbers and addresses for assistance or support.	

"Differing points of view appear as 'dilemmas' or 'concerns' to be researched, which some may see as a hidden protectionist agenda."

"Could use more information on economic value of raptor habitat for non-raptor uses."