



Name: _____

The Majestic Bald Eagle **TEXT 1**

In the wide and open skies of North America, one of the most **majestic** creatures soars with grace and power—the bald eagle. These birds are known for their strong wings, sharp eyesight, and proud appearance.

Bald eagles are often seen near bodies of water like lakes, rivers, or coastlines. They build their large nests, called eyries, high up in trees near these waters. These nests are like sturdy mansions made of sticks, grass, and soft materials like feathers.

One fascinating fact about bald eagles is how they use their sharp eyesight to hunt for food. From high above, they spot their prey, which could be fish swimming in the water or small mammals scurrying on land. With their strong claws, called talons, they swoop down swiftly to catch their meal.

These birds are famous for their white-feathered heads, which stand out against their dark brown bodies. But did you know that they aren't born with this look? Baby bald eagles, called eaglets, actually have fluffy brown feathers all over their bodies. As they grow older, their feathers slowly change color until they reach adulthood at around five years old, displaying the **iconic** white head and tail.

Once **endangered**, these magnificent birds have made a remarkable recovery thanks to conservation efforts. Laws to protect their habitats and control the use of harmful chemicals, such as pesticides, have helped them flourish once again.

The bald eagle stands as a symbol of strength, freedom, and resilience. Its majestic presence in the wild continues to inspire and remind us of the importance of preserving our natural world for generations to come.

Vocabulary Words

endangered- at serious risk of becoming extinct

iconic-very famous or popular

majestic-having impressive beauty or dignity



bald eagle



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The Majestic Bald Eagle

1. Where do bald eagles usually build their nests?

- a. In trees
- b. On the ground
- c. In caves
- d. In the water

2. How long does it take for a bald eagle to fully develop its iconic white head and tail?

- a. 1 year
- b. 5 years
- c. 10 years
- d. They are born with it.

3. Where are bald eagles often seen?

- a. Near bodies of water
- b. In deserts
- c. In forests
- d. In cities

4. What are bald eagle nests called?

- a. Mansions
- b. Eyries
- c. Nests
- d. Hives

5. What does the picture help you understand about bald eagles? _____

6. What helped bald eagles recover from being endangered? _____



Name: _____

Endangered Bald Eagles

TEXT 2

Not too long ago, the magnificent bald eagle faced a troubling time. Once widespread across North America, these proud birds started disappearing, and their numbers dwindled dangerously low. But why were these iconic creatures in danger?

One of the main reasons for their decline was the use of a harmful chemical called DDT. This **pesticide** made its way into the rivers and lakes, where bald eagles hunted for fish. When eagles consumed these contaminated fish, it affected their ability to lay healthy eggs. The eggshells became so thin that they would often break before the chicks could hatch, leading to fewer baby eagles surviving.

Another challenge was the loss of their natural habitats. As cities expanded and forests were cut down, the places where bald eagles could build their nests and find food became scarce. Without suitable habitats, these majestic birds struggled to thrive.



a bald eagle soaring above a lake

Thankfully, people recognized the urgency to save the bald eagle from extinction. Laws were passed to **ban** the use of DDT, which helped clean up the waterways and reduce its harmful effects on these birds. Additionally, efforts were made to protect and preserve the areas where bald eagles lived by creating national parks and wildlife refuges.

Conservationists and dedicated individuals worked together to create breeding programs and provide safe environments for bald eagles to raise their young. These programs helped increase the eagle population by rescuing and rehabilitating injured birds and releasing them back into the wild.

Thanks to these combined efforts and the determination of many, the bald eagle population started to recover. Their numbers began to rise, and their majestic presence returned to the skies. In 2007, the bald eagle was officially removed from the endangered species list, marking a significant milestone in their remarkable journey from endangerment to recovery.



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Endangered Bald Eagles

Today, these incredible birds continue to soar across the vast landscapes of North America, reminding us of the importance of protecting our natural world and working together to ensure the survival of all species. The story of the bald eagle's recovery stands as a powerful example of how conservation efforts can make a difference in saving our planet's precious wildlife.

Vocabulary Words

ban- to forbid or make illegal

dwindled- shrink in size or amount

pesticide-chemicals that are used to control/kill pests

1. What was DDT used for? _____

2. How did the use of DDT hurt bald eagles? _____

3. What question can be answered with the information in Text 2 but not Text 1?

- a) Are bald eagles still endangered?
- b) What are bald eagles' nests called?
- c) When were bald eagles removed from the endangered list?