



Birds of Prey Vocabulary - Middle School



Adaptation	A behavior or characteristic that helps a plant or animal survive in the environment.
Biomagnification	The increasing concentration of pollution as it moves through the food chain.
Carnivore	An animal that eats only animals.
Camouflage	Any color, shape, or pattern adaptation that helps an animal to blend in with its surroundings
Cere	A fleshy membrane that surrounds the outside of the bird's nostrils which allows the bird to breathe with its beak closed.
Crepuscular	An animal that is most active around sunrise and sunset
Diurnal	An animal that is most active during the day
Ecosystem	All the biotic and abiotic things that interact in a particular area
Endangered	A group of plants or animals whose survival is in danger because the population size is small
Falconiformes	The order of birds which includes hawklike raptors.
Food chain	A series of events in which one organism eats another
Food web	A series of interconnecting food chains that represent the feeding relationships of organisms within an ecosystem.
Habitat	The place where a plant or animal lives that has food, water, shelter, and space
Imprinted	Attachment of young birds to their mother or an artificial substitute (i.e., human).
Indicator species	A species whose presence serves as evidence that certain environmental conditions exist.
Interdependence	The reliance of two or more living things upon one another for survival.
Nocturnal	An animal that is most active during the night
Ornithologist	A person who studies birds.
Predator	An animal that hunts and eats other animals.
Prey	An animal that is hunted and eaten by other animals.
Raptor	A bird with adaptations for catching prey; a predator which is also referred to as a bird of prey.
Strigiformes	The order of birds which includes the owls.
Talon	Large, curved claws used by birds of prey to help them hold and kill their food
Thermal	An updraft of warm air that occurs when the sunlight heats the ground and causes warm air above it to rise.