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Product includes

Thank you for visiting my store! I am from California and have followed the eagles nest in Big Bear for years. Here are two non fiction passages about the nest and bald eagles that you can use for listening or reading comprehension activities. You can follow the Friends Of Big Bear in you classroom too!

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Eagles Nest in Big Bear: Jackie, Shadow, and Their New Hatchlings

Name: _____

High in the mountains of Big Bear, California, a special pair of bald eagles, Jackie and Shadow, call a giant nest their home. This nest sits about 120 feet high up in a Jeffrey pine tree, overlooking Big Bear Lake. For years, eagle watchers have tuned in through live cameras to see what's happening in the nest.

Jackie, the female eagle, has been living in Big Bear since around 2017. Bald eagles like Jackie are bigger than the males and usually take charge of the nest. Shadow joined Jackie a little later, and the two became a perfect team. They've been taking care of eggs together since 2019.

Their nest is massive – about five feet wide and three feet deep. Eagles reuse the same nest year after year, adding more sticks and branches each season. Some nests can weigh over a thousand pounds!

The Big Bear nest has seen both happy moments and tough times. Not every egg hatches, and life in the wild can be hard. The last fledgling that hatched was Spirit in 2022. Spirit was the first successful hatchling from the pair after unsuccessful nesting attempts in 2020 and 2021. Her name, "Spirit," was chosen through a public fundraiser, with local third-grade classrooms making the final selection.

Spirit fledged, or took her first flight, on May 31, 2022. This milestone was celebrated by eagle enthusiasts worldwide, and it marked a significant achievement for Jackie and Shadow.

This year, eagle fans are excited because Jackie and Shadow have new hatchlings!! Jackie and Shadow take turns keeping the babies warm and bringing food to the nest. The hatchlings are covered in soft gray feathers and will grow quickly in the coming weeks. Soon, they'll be ready to flap their wings and learn how to fly.

The eagles' nest in Big Bear is part of a protected area where people work to keep the environment safe. The cameras allow people to watch these amazing birds without disturbing them. Jackie and Shadow remind us how important it is to take care of nature and protect wild animals.



Eagles Nest in Big Bear: Jackie, Shadow, and Their New Hatchlings

Name: _____

1. Where is Jackie and Shadow's nest located?

- A) Anchorage, AL B) Big Bear, CA C) Yellowstone, MO D) Yosemite, CA

2. In 2022 Jackie and Shadow had a fledgeling named?

- A) Solo B) Baldy C) Spirit D) Bear

3. Why do bald eagles return to the same nest each year?

- A) They are too lazy to build a new one B) They can't fly very far
C) Their nest gets bigger and stronger over time D) They don't know how to build new ones

4. How do Jackie and Shadow take care of their hatchlings?

- A) They leave them alone to grow on their own B) They hide them under twigs
C) They take turns keeping them warm and bringing them food D) They push them out

5. What is one challenge Jackie and Shadow have faced?

- A) Their nest was stolen by another bird B) Not all their eggs have hatched successfully
C) They don't know how to fish D) They keep getting lost in the forest

Write whether each statement is true or false.

_____ Jackie has been in Big Bear since around 2017.

_____ The nest is about 120 feet high in a Jeffrey pine tree.

_____ Eagle watchers can see the nest through a live camera without disturbing the birds.

_____ Jackie is smaller than Shadow because female bald eagles are always smaller than males.

_____ Their last fledgeling was named Baldy and born in 2021.

_____ Their nest is about five feet wide and three feet deep.

_____ Jackie and Shadow remind us how important it is to take care of nature.



Eagles Nest in Big Bear: Jackie, Shadow, and Their New Hatchlings

ANSWER KEY

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1. Where is Jackie and Shadow's nest located?

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- A) Their nest was stolen by another bird B) Not all their eggs have hatched successfully
C) They don't know how to fish D) They keep getting lost in the forest

Write whether each statement is true or false.

True

Jackie has been in Big Bear since around 2017.

True

The nest is about 120 feet high in a Jeffrey pine tree.

True

Eagle watchers can see the nest through a live camera without disturbing the birds.

False

Jackie is smaller than Shadow because female bald eagles are always smaller than males.

False

Their last fledgeling was named Baldy and born in 2021.

True

Their nest is about five feet wide and three feet deep.

True

Jackie and Shadow remind us how important it is to take care of nature.



Eagles Nest in Big Bear: Jackie, Shadow, and Their New Hatchlings

Name: _____

1. Why do bald eagles return to the same nest each year?

2. What makes the Big Bear eagle nest special?

3. How do Jackie and Shadow take care of their hatchlings?

4. What challenges have Jackie and Shadow faced in raising their young?

5. What can people do to help protect bald eagles and their habitats?



Eagles Nest in Big Bear: Jackie, Shadow, and Their New Hatchlings

ANSWER KEY

Name: _____

1. Why do bald eagles return to the same nest each year?

They continue to build on their same nest year after year making sure it is a strong nest

2. What makes the Big Bear eagle nest special?

Jackie and Shadow have been there for many years and you can watch them raise their young on a live camera.

3. How do Jackie and Shadow take care of their hatchlings?

They keep them warm and they feed them regularly.

4. What challenges have Jackie and Shadow faced in raising their young?

They have had several eggs that have not hatched.

5. What can people do to help protect bald eagles and their habitats?

There are many answers for this. Could include taking care of the environment, avoid harmful pesticides, help clean up forest projects, donate

Eagles Nest in Big Bear: Jackie, Shadow, Gizmo, and Sunny

Name: _____

The bald eagle pair Jackie and Shadow from Big Bear Valley, California, have successfully hatched two eaglets. The eagles of Big Bear Valley have attracted a global audience, with the live-streamed nest cam drawing significant viewership. People across the world have been captivated by this little eagle family.

The Friends of Big Bear Valley (FOBBV) have been streaming Jackie and Shadow's nest since 2015. In March 2025, the live feed attracted over a million views, with approximately 32,000 viewers tuning in simultaneously during the hatching period. The first eaglet hatched on March 3, 2025 and the second eaglet hatched on March 4, 2025. The third egg hatched a few days later on March 8, 2025.

One of the eaglets, presumably the first to hatch, did not survive a big snowstorm but the other two are growing and thriving each day and were recently named Sunny and Gizmo.

The two surviving eaglets received their names through a community-driven process organized by the nonprofit Friends Of Big Bear Valley. FOBBV received over 54,000 name suggestions! The third, fourth, and fifth grade classes at Big Bear Valley elementary school voted on the new names. They chose from 31 names including Skye, Crackle, Talon, Blaze, and Bell. The larger chick was named Sunny and the smaller one, Gizmo. Additionally, the first chick, which did not survive a snow storm, was posthumously named Misty.

If you tune in to the live feed, you can watch their antics live on camera. The two eaglets are often seen snuggling with each other to keep warm and on some days you will see them head bonking. Head bonking, also known as "bonking" or sibling rivalry, is a natural behavior observed among eagle chicks. It involves one chick pecking or knocking the other on the head, usually as a way to establish dominance. While it may look aggressive, mild bonking is common and does not usually cause serious harm.

Sunny and Gizmo are currently in the nest, under the attentive care of their parents. They are expected to remain in the nest for approximately 10 to 14 weeks before fledging. It will be bittersweet to see them fly away sometime in May but it is very special to be able to learn so much about these eagles and be able to watch Sunny and Gizmo take their first flight.



Eagles Nest in Big Bear: Jackie, Shadow, and Their New Hatchlings

Name: _____

1. What are the names given to the two eaglets in Big Bear (choose two)?

- A) Sunny B) Cali C) Gizmo D) Cotton Ball

2. How many people have tuned into the livestream?

- A) about 1,000 B) about 5,000 C) about 10,000 D) over 1 million

3. Who picked the names for the new eaglets?

- A) Shadow and Jackie B) Fiona, they flying school
C) Local 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders D) Spirit

4. What is head bonking?

- A) Reaching for food from Jackie B) Reaching each other on the head
C) Moving sticks around on the nest D) Using slapping pray out of the nest

5. How long to eaglets stay in the nest?

- A) 4-5 weeks B) 6-8 weeks
C) 10-14 weeks D) 8-10 weeks

Write whether each statement is true or false.

_____ Jackie and Shadow hatched only one eaglet this year.

_____ Not very many people are watching the eaglets grow up.

_____ Over 54,000 names were submitted for the baby eaglets.

_____ The smaller chick is named Sunny.

_____ Head bonking is a natural behavior.

_____ Sunny and Gizmo should take their first flight between 10-14 weeks.

_____ FOBBV stands for Friends Of Big Bear Valley.



Eagles Nest in Big Bear: Jackie, Shadow, and Their New Hatchlings

Answer Key

Name: _____

1. What are the names given to the two eaglets in Big Bear (choose two)?

☒ A) Sunny

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☒ C) Gizmo

☐ D) Cotton Ball

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☐ A) Reaching for food from Jackie

☐ C) Moving sticks around on the nest

☐ B) Pecking each other on the head

☒ D) Using slapping pray out of the nest

5. How long do eaglets stay in the nest?

☐ A) 4-5 weeks

☐ B) 6-8 weeks

☒ C) 10-14 weeks

☐ D) 8-10 weeks

Write whether each statement is true or false.

False

Jackie and Shadow hatched only one eaglet this year.

False

Not very many people are watching the eaglets grow up.

True

Over 54,000 names were submitted for the baby eaglets.

False

The smaller chick is named Sunny.

True

Head bonking is a natural behavior.

True

Sunny and Gizmo should take their first flight between 10-14 weeks.

True

FOBBV stands for Friends Of Big Bear Valley.



Eagles Nest in Big Bear: Jackie, Shadow, and Their New Hatchlings

Name: _____

1. How were the final names Gizmo and Sunny selected for the eaglets?

2. What is head bonking?

3. Why do you think the eaglets head bonk each other?

4. Why do you think the watching Big Bear eagles have become so popular?

5. What would you name the two eaglets and why?



Eagles Nest in Big Bear: Jackie, Shadow, and Their New Hatchlings

Name: _____

1. How were the final names Gizmo and Sunny selected for the eaglets?

3rd, 4th, and 5th graders from Big Bear Valley
Elementary School

2. What is head bonking?

It involves one chick pecking or knocking the other on the head,
usually as a way to establish dominance.

3. Why do you think the eaglets head bonk each other?

To establish dominance.

4. Why do you think the watching Big Bear eagles have become so popular?

???

5. What would you have name the two eaglets and why?

???



Bald Eagles: Majestic Birds of the Sky

Name: _____

The bald eagle is one of the most powerful and admired birds in North America. It is known for its sharp eyesight, strong talons, and striking appearance. With its white head, dark brown body, and large wingspan—up to seven feet wide—this bird is easy to recognize. Despite its name, the bald eagle is not actually bald! The word “bald” comes from an old English word meaning “white,” referring to the color of its head.

Bald eagles are birds of prey, which means they hunt for their food. Their favorite meal is fish, which they catch by swooping down over lakes and rivers with their sharp talons. They also eat small animals like rabbits and ducks. If food is scarce, they will even steal meals from other birds or eat dead animals, called carrion.

These eagles build their nests high up in trees, usually near water. A bald eagle's nest, called an aerie, is one of the largest of any bird. Some nests can be over eight feet wide and weigh more than a thousand pounds because eagles keep adding sticks each year. A pair of eagles, like Jackie and Shadow in Bear, often use the same nest for their entire lives.

At one time, bald eagles were in danger of disappearing. In the mid-1900s, hunting, pollution, and the use of a harmful chemical called DDT caused their numbers to drop. Thanks to laws protecting them and efforts to clean up their environment, bald eagles made an incredible comeback. Today, they are no longer endangered, and their population continues to grow.

The bald eagle is a special bird in the United States because it is the country's national symbol. It was chosen in 1782 to represent strength and freedom. People today continue to admire bald eagles for their beauty, power, and ability to survive in the wild.

Would you like to see a bald eagle in action? If you're near a lake or river, look up! You might be lucky enough to spot one soaring high in the sky.



Bald Eagles: Majestic Birds of the Sky

Name: _____

1. What is the wingspan of a bald eagle?

- A) 3 feet B) 5 feet C) 7 feet D) 10 feet

2. What is a bald eagle's nest called?

- A) Hive B) Burrow C) Roost D) Aerie

3. What do bald eagles mostly eat?

- A) Fruits and berries B) Insects and worms
C) Fish and small animals D) Grass and leaves

4. Why is the bald eagle called "bald" if it has feathers on its head?

- A) Because it loses feathers as it gets older B) Because it was once actually bald
C) Because "bald" comes from an old word meaning "white" D) Because its head has fewer feathers than its body

5. Why is the bald eagle important to the United States?

- A) It is the country's national symbol B) It helps control the rabbit population
C) It was the first bird discovered in America D) It sings a beautiful song

Write whether each statement is true or false.

- _____ A bald eagle's nest can weigh over a thousand pounds.
_____ Bald eagles only eat fish.
_____ DDT was a chemical that harmed bald eagles and caused their population to decline.
_____ Bald eagles build a new nest every year instead of using the same one.
_____ Bald eagles were chosen as the national symbol of the United States in 1782.
_____ People can often see bald eagles flying near lakes and rivers.
_____ A bald eagle's nest is one of the largest of any bird



Bald Eagles: Majestic Birds of the Sky

ANSWER KEY

Name: _____

1. What is the wingspan of a bald eagle?

- A) 3 feet B) 5 feet C) 7 feet D) 10 feet

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Write whether each statement is true or false.

True

A bald eagle's nest can weigh over a thousand pounds.

False

Bald eagles only eat fish.

True

DDT was a chemical that harmed bald eagles and caused their population to decline.

False

Bald eagles build a new nest every year instead of using the same one.

True

Bald eagles were chosen as the national symbol of the United States in 1782.

True

People can often see bald eagles flying near lakes and rivers.

True

A bald eagle's nest is one of the largest of any bird.

Bald Eagles: Majestic Birds of the Sky

Name: _____

1. Bald eagles nearly disappeared in the past due to pollution and hunting. What can people do today to make sure animals like bald eagles stay safe?

2. Why do you think the bald eagle was chosen as the national symbol of the United States? If you had to choose a different animal to represent the country, which one would you pick and why?

3. Bald eagles reuse the same nest year after year, making it bigger and stronger. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this strategy compared to building a new nest each year?

4. Some people believe we should stop using live eagle cams to watch nests because it might stress the birds. Others think it helps people learn about nature and protect wildlife. What do you think?

5. If you could spend a day as a bald eagle, what would you do? What challenges do you think you would face in the wild?



**Eagles Nest in Big Bear:
Jackie, Shadow, and Their New Hatchlings**



**Click on the picture to follow Jackie and Shadow and
as they raise their new hatchlings.**



10 Fun Facts about Bald Eagles

1. Huge Wingspan

A bald eagle's wingspan can reach up to 7 feet, which is longer than most people are tall!

2. Not Actually Bald

Despite their name, bald eagles have white feathers on their heads. The word "bald" comes from an old English word meaning "white-headed."

3. Amazing Eyesight

Bald eagles have vision up to four times sharper than humans. They can spot a fish in the water from over a mile away!

4. Super Fast Flyers

These birds can fly at speeds of 35 to 40 miles per hour, and when diving to catch prey, they can reach 100 mph!

5. Giant Nests

Bald eagles build some of the biggest nests in the bird world. The largest recorded nest was 9 feet wide, 20 feet deep, and weighed over 1,000 pounds!

6. Strong Talons

Their sharp, curved talons help them grab fish right out of the water. Each talon can apply up to 400 pounds of pressure per square inch—stronger than a human handshake!

7. They Mate for Life

Once a bald eagle finds a mate, they usually stay together for life, working as a team to raise their young.

8. They Can Swim

If an eagle catches a fish that is too heavy to carry, it will paddle to shore using its wings like oars!

9. Feather Transformation

Baby eagles, called eaglets, are born with dark brown feathers. They don't get their famous white head and tail until they're about 4 to 5 years old.

10. Survival Success

Bald eagles were once endangered, but thanks to conservation efforts, their numbers have recovered, and they are no longer at risk!