

# Golden Eagles



Grade 4th  
Fiction \_\_\_\_\_  
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Nonfiction ✓

## Golden Eagles

The golden eagle was chosen as Mexico's national bird. They can fly up to 150 miles an hour. We will talk about their traits, diet, adaptations, habitat and offspring. Enjoy!



First, golden eagles have amazing traits. Did you know the golden eagle's nickname is booted eagle? Golden eagles get their name from their golden feathers that are on the back of their head and neck. Golden eagles can weigh 15 pounds and they are up to 3 feet tall. They also have sharp claws on their feet called talons. If a person had eagle vision, they would be able to see an ant on the ground from the top of a ten story building. Eagle's beaks are covered in hard layers of keratin; the same material in human fingernails. Eagles have four different feathers. Eagles have some of the world's best eyesight. Golden eagles are the fastest fliers among eagles. Golden eagles have feathers all the way down their legs like boots. Eagles can see their prey from two miles away. Golden eagles have a dive speed of 200 miles per hour. Eagles like all raptors have hollow bones. Their bones are also denser making them stronger. This hollow yet denser bone structure makes a perfect combination for flight.



Next, Golden eagles satisfying diet. Most eagles prefer to eat fish. However, depending on the eagle, they may choose to hunt mammals. Eagles are thieves. They steal fish and other prey from birds, animals, and even humans. Eagles also eat roadkill. Some eagles eat monkeys. Eagles hunt with humans in Asia. Golden eagles track their prey's every move. To break a turtle's shell, an eagle will fly in the air and drop the shell on a rock. Eagles eat any food they can find because their scavengers. Eagles don't just eat fish, they also eat small mammals, birds, and amphibians. Golden eagles also eat gray squirrels, grouse, jack rabbits, prairie dogs, red foxes, and white tailed deer.

Also, Golden eagles have an awesome habitat. Eagles can be found on every continent except Antarctica, and prefer to live near their prey. Their territory can be up to 77 square miles. Eagles are often found near lakes, rivers and streams, but mostly live by water. They might live in tall trees or on cliff faces. Eagles sometimes live in high places to spot prey. They fly over most of North America, and some parts of Asia.

Next, golden eagles have cool offspring. Once an eaglet learns to fly, it can live on its own. When eaglets are born, they have a hard part on their beak called an egg tooth. Baby eagles are very fluffy and they are usually white or gray.



When eaglets are ten weeks old, they become fledglings when they can fly. Baby eagles are called eaglets. Once an eaglet learns how to fly, its parents still feed it. Some golden eagles mate for life. They spend 42 days inside their and 3 to 5 months with their parents. It can take days for an eaglet to break out of its egg. During mating season, a male will show off his talent by dropping a rock and diving down and catching the rock before it hits the ground. Wow!



Last, golden eagles have pretty handy adaptations. In Spring and Summer pairs perform courtship displays. After an eagle eats the raptor rubs its beak on stones or other sharp surfaces. Eagles have an inner eyelid called a "nictitating membrane". Eagles have wide mouths to take in big chunks of food. These predators rarely go hungry. In Greece, golden eagles eat turtle meat and snakes. If a venomous snake were to bite the eagles, it would die. So they keep the fangs away. Eagles scales on their feet are so strong that if it were to get bitten by a snake, it wouldn't hurt or affect the eagle. Eagle feathers are waterproof, so it keeps them warm. If an eagle wing gets wet while fishing, it can use its wings as oars. The eagle rows itself across the water with the fish in its talons. When it gets to dry land, it eats the fish while it dries its wings.



Clearly you can see that golden eagles are extraordinary animals with amazing traits, awesome habitat, satisfying diet, cool offspring, and pretty handy adaptations.