

Eagles, Flying High at the Top of the Food Chain

(Story words: species, prey, learn, research)

Frank had to create an oral report for his science class which was studying the food chain. Mr. Fernandez divided the class into three groups by having the students draw popsicle sticks. One group had to present on a species at the top of the food chain. One group had to present on a species in the middle. And one group had to present on a species at the bottom. Frank was glad that he drew the top of the food chain, and he chose to study eagles.

Eagles are expert predators and are very fast. For example, the golden eagle, which lives in North America, from Mexico to Alaska, can fly 200 miles per hour. As well as having amazing speed, eagles have incredible eyesight. An eagle can spy something as small as a rabbit that is three miles away. The nickname “king of the birds” makes more sense the more you learn about eagles.

Depending upon where they live, eagles hunt for fish, snakes, mammals, and birds. An eagle does not need to land in order to grab its prey. While still in flight, the eagle uses its sharp talons to grasp its prey. The eagle then takes its prey to a high perch before using its sharp, hooked beak to rip it apart.

Learning about how eagles hunt was a bit gruesome. But, the facts Frank learned about the birth of new eagles was even more grisly.

Eagle moms typically lay two eggs in their nests. The stronger, dominant chick will kill and eat the other chick, while the parents look on and do nothing. Mr. Fernandez told the students to try to find some memorable details to include in their reports. Frank predicted that this detail would be one that his classmates would find memorable.

Thinking about the baby eagles was really creepy. Frank concluded that eagles do not learn to become predators but are born predators.

After doing his research, Frank was confident that he would have enough things to tell his classmates about eagles.