

Eagle Trivia

- 1) Bald eagles earned their name because:
 - a) They have no feathers on top of their heads
 - b) “Balde” is an old English term meaning “white”
 - c) “Baldd” is an Ojibway term meaning “quick mind”
 - d) The birds have no feathers on their feet

- 2) Bald eagles get their white head and tail feathers when they are how old?
 - a) 1 year
 - b) 2 years
 - c) 4 years
 - d) 6 years

- 3) Both bald eagles and golden eagles are common in northern Minnesota.
 - a) True
 - b) False

- 4) Eagles nest can weigh up to a ton and are found....
 - a) In marsh grass nests at the lakes edge
 - b) In twig nests at the top of dead trees
 - c) In twig nests near the top of white pine trees
 - d) In soft grass nests in clearings.

- 5) A bald eagle’s eyesite
 - a) is 4 times sharper than a person with perfect vision
 - b) is twice as sharp as a person with perfect vision
 - c) is telescopic
 - d) is so poor they rely more on hearing and vibrations to catch prey

- 6) Eagles are excellent flyers. About how many feathers does a single bird have?
 - a) 70
 - b) 700
 - c) 7000
 - d) 70,000

- 7) Eagles migrate, but some do stay on the Chippewa National Forest thru the winter.
 - a) True
 - b) False

- 8) Bald eagles are capable of grabbing a 20-lb dog and carrying it off.
 - a) True
 - b) False

- 9) When an eagle grabs a fish, it will release it immediately if it is harassed by other birds.
- a) True
 - b) False
- 10) The Chippewa National Forest is home to how many **pairs** of bald eagles?
- a) 28
 - b) 58
 - c) 108
 - d) 178
- 11) There are only a few states with an equal number of nesting eagles. Which state has the largest number of bald eagles in the United States?
- a) Minnesota
 - b) Alaska
 - c) Oregon
 - d) Maine
- 12) There are only 12 different types of eagles found in the world, including the bald and golden eagles found in North America.
- a) True
 - b) False
- 13) What factor or factors led to the decline of bald eagles in the 20th century?
(Check all that apply)
- a) Loss of habitat
 - b) Human harassment (shooting/poisoning)
 - c) Eagle flu
 - d) DDT and other pesticides
- 14) Where should you look to see live bald eagles on the Chippewa National Forest? (Check all that apply)
- a) Along shorelines
 - b) Near dams (in winter)
 - c) At the Visitor Centers (in summer)
 - d) Sitting near the tops of large pine trees
- 15) What is the Chippewa National Forest doing to protect eagles in 2004?
- a) Protecting water quality thru shoreline erosion rehab. Projects
 - b) Protecting eagle nesting areas with strict "No Activity" zones within a certain radius around a nest
 - c) Posting armed guards near each eagle nesting site
 - d) Educating people about food chains and the importance of using lead free fishing tackle

Answers:

1. **b** Balde is an old English term meaning white.
2. **c** Bald eagles get their white head and tail feathers when they are between 3-4 years of age. Eagle chicks are as big as adults at the end of their first summer, but they do not get the white feathers until they are older.
3. **False**. Only bald eagles are common in northern Minnesota. Immature eagles are frequently mistaken for golden eagles because of their size and coloring. Golden eagles are very rarely seen in this area.
4. **c**. In twig nests in white and red pine trees. Nests do get up to one ton and can be 10 feet in diameter. Larger stick nests seen in openings at the very top of a dead tree is most often an osprey nest.
5. **a**. Eagle eyes are four times sharper than perfect vision in a human. An eagle can see prey 1 mile away. From 1000 feet above, it can see in a 3 mile radius.
6. **c**. Eagles have approximately 7000 feathers. It is illegal to possess an eagle feather without a permit.
7. True. Many of the Forest's eagle population migrate south to areas with ample open water, but some do remain throughout the year, finding open water and food around dams.
8. False. Though people sometimes worry that eagles can carry off small children and dogs, it's a rarity. An eagle can lift only about 4 pounds...so protect your Chihuahuas.
9. False. Even if they wanted to, an eagle cannot simply release it's catch while in flight. An eagle's talons lock when it grabs prey, and can only be released when they hit a perch.
10. **d**. The Forest is home to an estimated 178 breeding eagle pairs. This is one of the third highest in the country, in line with Florida and Wisconsin.
11. **b**. Alaska That state has about half of the world's 70,000 bald eagles.
12. False. There are over 80 species of eagles in the world!
13. **a,b** and **d**. There are many factors leading to eagle decline, with loss of habitat being the top. DDT was the factor that led an already declining population to the brink of extinction. Bald eagles are now on the threatened species list.
14. All of the above! If you want to see a live eagle up close, visit the Norway Beach or Cut Foot VIC in July for Bald Eagle day.
15. **a,b,d**. The Chippewa National Forest was the core area for bald eagle recovery in the 1960's. Work then concentrated on eagle surveys and nest area protection. In the 70-80's, work focused on banding eagles to understand their life history. Today, biologists concentrate on habitat protection, including a large emphasis on lake and wetland health.