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# I am a bald eagle



Hello

There are many kinds of eagle. I am the eagle with a white head. I am not bald, even though I am called a bald eagle. The word bald comes from a Greek word meaning 'white'.

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Now we have cleared that up, we can all agree I am a large, beautiful eagle. I live in North America. My cousin, as it were, the Golden Eagle, lives in Europe and Asia, although some live here, too.

I tend to be found in the mountains in places where there are lakes or by the sea. That is because I am a superb fisher. I swoop down and snatch fish from the water, gripping it with my talons. I am big enough, of course, to pluck a full sized salmon from the water, something that other birds could not do.

Did you know that I build the largest nest of any North American bird and the largest tree nest ever recorded for any animal species? Thought not. My nest is up to 4 metres deep, 2.5 metres wide, and weighs a staggering 1 tonne.

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I am found in the northern Rockies where the mountains come close to the sea, and where the coast is clad in forests which I can use for perching and also nest-building.

But I am also found where there are natural inland lakes, such as Yellowstone, and by large rivers. But if there is no open water, I won't be found there.

In the winter, however, the rivers and lakes can be frozen and then I choose open places where I can expect to find food; places like prairies, meadows or tundra.

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I spend a lot of my time soaring high in the air, using the natural currents in the air to keep me aloft. But if I want to, I can fly very fast, up to 70 kilometres an hour.

I have told you I eat fish, especially in summer, but that I will hunt rodents and other animals in winter if the rivers and lakes are frozen. I will even take small deer. But I will take whatever comes my way.



6

About a quarter of my food is made of birds I catch, especially those, such as ducks, that I can catch swimming on the water.



7

Of course, if I spot some dead animal that has only been partly eaten by a bear or wolves, I will swoop down to eat that, too.

As you can see, I don't fear much and my large size makes me an amazing hunter. I can even fly with a catch of the same weight as myself.



*Share the knowledge: pass me to a friend.*

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