

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE

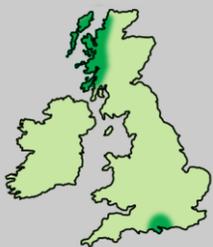
White-tailed eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), sometimes known as sea eagles, are the UK's largest bird of prey, with a near 8 foot wingspan!

They were made extinct in Britain during the early 20th century, due to habitat change and hunting. It wasn't until the 1970s when they were reintroduced, specifically to the western coast of Scotland.

In 2019, six of these Scottish birds were introduced to the Isle of Wight, in an attempt to re-establish a population on the south coast.



British Population



About 130 breeding pairs estimated

Numbers are increasing

 Found here

Size & Weight



Head to tail - 70 to 90 cm

Wingspan - 200 to 240 cm

Weight -
3.5 to 7 kg

Lifespan



20 years
Wild average



40 years
In captivity

Main Diet



Fish



Large
birds



Large
mammals



Carrion
(flesh)

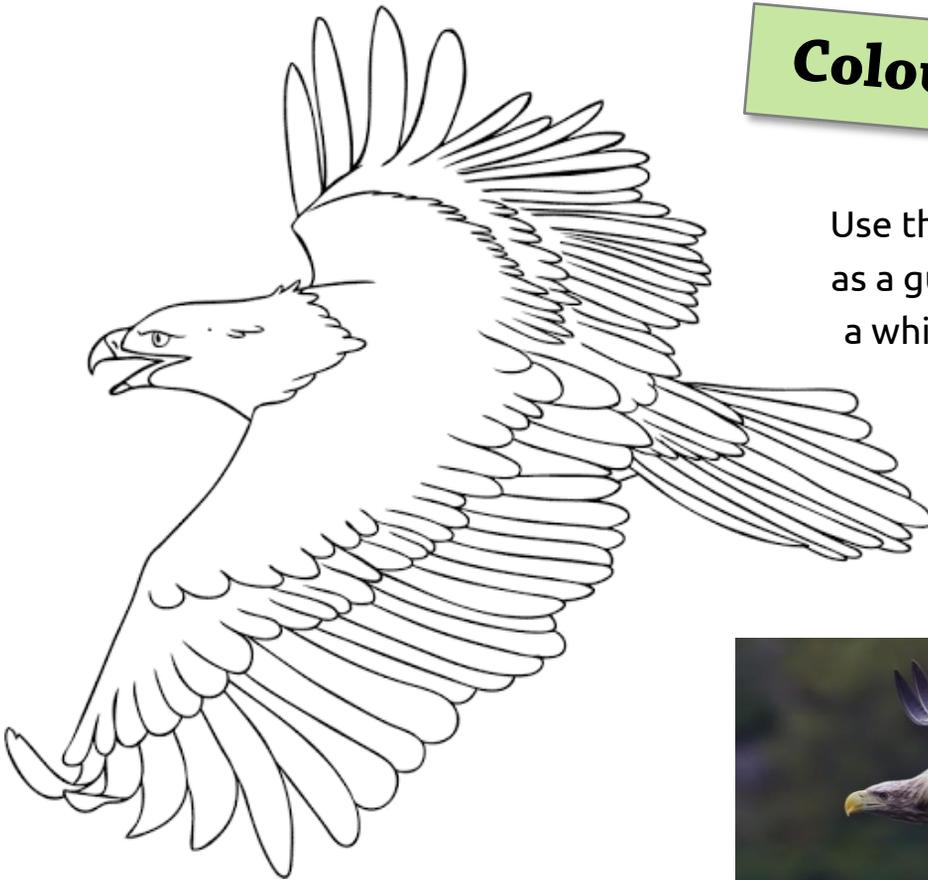
White-tailed Eagle - Page 2

White-tailed eagles are found across a very large range, spanning from Iceland to Japan, though they are distributed sparsely. They are very closely related to bald eagles, seen as the American equivalent.

They prefer to live near coasts or large freshwater areas, as fish form a large part of their diet. Cliffs or woodland areas are used for nesting, in territories of up to 70 square kilometres! White-tailed eagles hunt by soaring, though usually spend much of the day perched in one place.

Colouring Page

Use the picture below as a guide to colour in a white-tailed eagle!



Match the Facts

Eagles have many special adaptations that make them hugely powerful predators.

Can you draw in the lines to match the adaptation to its benefit?



Adaptation

Skull protrudes out above the eyes

Small ridges on the bottom of their feet called spicules

Large, tough beaks

Large wingspan, making it easier to catch air currents and drift through the air

Benefit

Uses up less energy, meaning they need to find and hunt less food

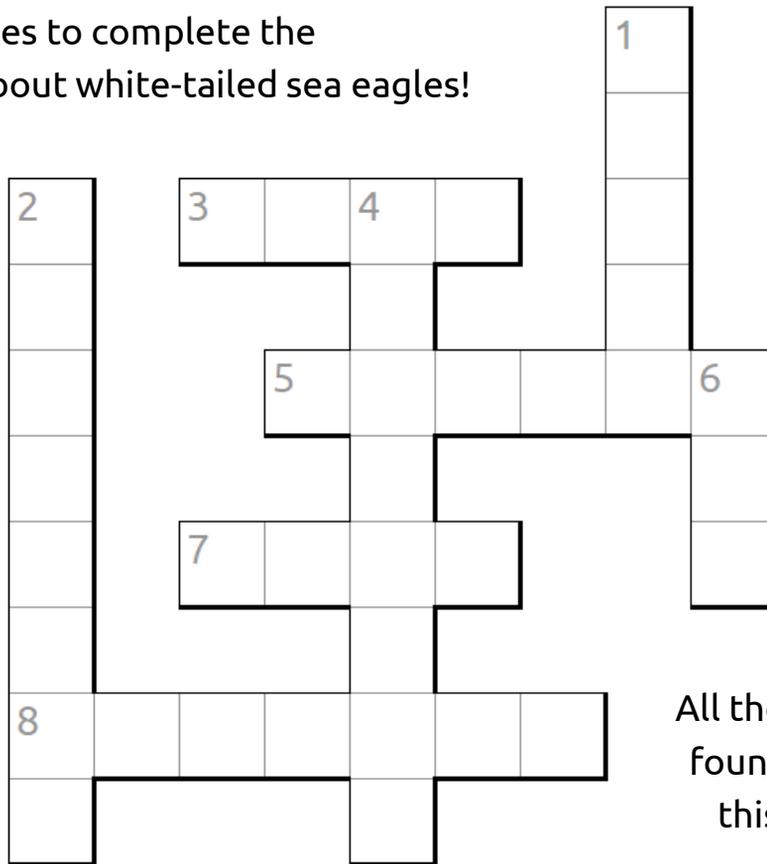
Minimises glare from the sun from affecting their eyesight

Can tear into large fish, such as pikes

Improves the grip they have on prey

Crossword

Solve the clues to complete the crossword about white-tailed sea eagles!



All the answers can be found somewhere in this activity pack!

ACROSS

- 3 – White-tailed eagle's main prey
- 5 – Where white-tailed eagles prefer to live
- 7 – A close North American relative of the white-tailed eagle
- 8 – At one point, white-tailed eagles were _____ in Britain.

DOWN

- 1 – Isle of _____, where white-tailed eagles have recently been introduced
- 2 – Small ridges on an eagle's feet that help it grip onto prey
- 4 – Where the majority of white-tailed eagles live in the UK
- 6 – They are also called _____ eagles