

Look through the slides

- Find out about golden eagles.
- Collect enough information so you can successfully describe it.
- Look at how two writers have described other birds. What can we learn from them?

[Golden Eagle Facts | Aquila Chrysaetos - The RSPB](#)

[Golden Eagle | National Geographic](#)

[Golden Eagle vs. Hare | National Geographic - Bing video](#)

[Teenage Eagle Hunter Is Mongolia's New Movie Star](#)

The Eagle

BY ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON

He clasps the crag with crooked hands;
Close to the sun in lonely lands,
Ring'd with the azure world, he stands.

The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;
He watches from his mountain walls,
And like a thunderbolt he falls.

Please share this slide with an adult
before watching the videos.

Warning: stop at 2:30 to avoid seeing the hare
being caught and eaten.

Warning: 1 minute to 1 minute and 5 seconds:
Eagle catching prey. An advert might need to
be skipped before watching this.

On the next two slides, look at how writers have written about birds

- What can we take from the pieces of writing to help us describe a golden eagle?
- How has the writing been organised? Is there a deliberate order to the facts?
- How are facts and thoughts linked so it doesn't just feel like a list of facts and thoughts? How do the writers create the flow in their writing?
- Can you explain why the writing is different than what you would find in an information book e.g. in an encyclopedia

There are about 200 different species of cuckoo, but only one breeds in Britain – The European cuckoo. The ancient Hebrews were possibly deceived by its hawk-like appearance and, for this reason, may have prohibited it, along with the nightjars and owls, as an article of diet.* Today, most casual observers who catch sight of a cuckoo beating along open hedgerows, or gliding out of a thicket or copse, mistake it for a bird of prey. It must be admitted that in silhouette, colouring, size and flight it is superficially very like a sparrow-hawk. Compared with some of its foreign relatives it is a drab bird. The upper parts and breast are blue-grey and the remaining under-parts whitish with dark bars. The legs and feet are yellow. In Asia, India and Africa many cuckoos are brilliantly coloured – bright metallic green, purple, bronze, golden and pied. Quite a large proportion of the American species – most of which are not parasitic – are terrestrial birds, who rarely use their wings, but can put on an amazing turn of speed running across country or through dense undergrowth.

This elegant little species is the smallest British bird. Its weight seldom exceeds 80 grains; length three inches and three quarters. The bill is slender and black; irides hazel. The crown of the head is singularly beautiful; the crest is composed of a double series of feathers, arising from each side, and almost meeting at their points; the exterior are black, the interior bright yellow; between which, on the crown, the feathers are shorter, and of a fine deep orange; the forehead, chin, and round the eyes, whitish; the hind part of the head, neck, and back, green; the two first dashed with ash-colour; quills dusky, edged with green; at the base of the secondary quills is a black bar, above which the coverts are tipped with white, lightest on the belly, a little tinged with yellow; the tail is somewhat forked, the feathers dusky, edged with yellowish green.

Task

- Write a description about a golden eagle.
- It needs to be factual.
- It needs to feel slightly poetic – use similes, metaphors and alliteration.
- Create a piece of writing that, when you read it out-loud, flows beautifully and is enjoyable to listen to.
- Challenge: make the eagle sound powerful, majestic and a little bit mythical.