

RAFTing with Raptors Lesson Plan

Overview:

- What is a raptor?
- Hands-on talons activity
- Field guide research
- Handout: Compare and contrast the Barred Owl and the Red-Tailed Hawk
- Raleigh's Weight activity
- In small groups, write RAFTs

Details:

1. Introduction: This session will focus on informational text. Briefly look at science and ELA standards. Define "explicit" and "inference." What is a raptor?
2. Talons Activity: <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Compare Talons 1, 2, and 3. How are they alike? How are they different?b. Rub your finger along each "palm." Which talon belonged to an osprey?c. Which talon would be best adapted to catch and hold fish? (infer)
3. Field guide <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Index and graphic featuresb. Bald Eagle- What does it eat? Where does it live? Why are there 3 colors on the range map? Infer that it is a carnivore and a predator; also, that some eagles migrate.c. Field guide research activity- Is your bird a raptor? How do you know? (Allow 8 minutes)
4. Two Resident Raptors- Read the text and use a graphic organizer to compare and contrast the owl and hawk
5. Raleigh's Weight graphing activity
6. RAFT activity <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Explain RAFT strategy and examplesb. Draft a RAFT and share with the group (Allow 15 minutes)
7. Unpack the lesson