



Raptor Resource Project Lesson Plans

To find more plans, go to www.raptorresource.org

Lesson Plan: Crop Crop!

Grade/Level	Middle School
Time Allotment	Two class periods or one class period and homework
Content Area(s)	Life Science, Organ Systems, Digestion

Objectives

To compare and contrast the digestive system of Bald Eagles and humans

Curricular Connections

- PS3-1: Use models to describe that energy in animals' food was once energy from the sun
- LS1: From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes
- LS2: Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy and Dynamics

Instructional Materials

Listed videos, paper, writing/drawing tools, diagram of eagle digestive system

Resources

- Video: Little eaglets have crops fit to burst! <https://youtu.be/mJDVV2Rs2cM>
- Video: D32's seriously huge feet and crop: <https://youtu.be/SdJxJEd-K5E?t=226>
- Video: Floppy fish delivery and feeding: <https://youtu.be/CIEnhNXTvE?t=274>
- The Digestive System of an Eagle: <https://digestivesystemsxavier.weebly.com/bald-eagle---haliaeetus-leucocephalus.html>
- Digestive systems: Ospreys and Eagles - <https://ospreyandeagle.wordpress.com/nutrition/digestive-anatomy/>

Background Knowledge

Animals have some means of ingesting and digesting their food. Comparing our human digestive system to other animals helps us understand how our bodies handle the food we eat and also gives us insight into the feeding behaviors of other animals. Birds have some systems similar to humans because they are vertebrates. However, there are also many differences.

Opener

Follow the links in the 'Resources' section of this lesson plan to view eaglets, crops, and feedings. Questions: Do you know what a crop is? If you don't know, what are your ideas about what this structure is and what its function might be?

Procedure/Method/Activity

1. Students will research the digestive system of a Bald Eagle and record the organs and their functions. You can find your own resources or use the resources listed here:
 - <https://digestivesystemsxavier.weebly.com/bald-eagle---haliaeetus-leucocephalus.html>
 - <https://ospreyandeagle.wordpress.com/nutrition/digestive-anatomy/>
2. Students will use a model (chart, drawings, diagram, index cards) to explain the digestive system of a Bald Eagle. Include the organ names, functions, and direction the food is be moving.
3. If students have background on the human digestive system, add structures (names and functions) of the human digestive system to your model.

Assessment

Explain how a Bald Eagle's digestive system is similar to yours (compare) and how it is different (contrast).

Extension

Do ALL birds have a crop? Research and find out.

