Name: Date: Score: / 6

Bald Eagles: Reading Comprehension

Nonfiction: Animals · about 150 words

Read the passage. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

Bald Eagles

The bald eagle is the national bird of the United States. It was chosen in 1782. Despite its name, the bald eagle is not bald. Adults have white feathers on their heads, which made them look "balded," an old word for white. Young eagles are mostly brown and do not get their white heads until they are about five years old.

Bald eagles live near lakes, rivers, and coasts because their favorite food is fish. They swoop down and snatch fish from the water with their sharp, curved claws called talons. Their eyesight is several times sharper than a person's.

Eagle pairs build huge nests high in tall trees. They add to the same nest year after year. Some nests grow to be more than 10 feet deep. In the 1960s, bald eagles were in danger of disappearing. Thanks to new laws protecting them, their numbers have grown again.

1. **Main idea:** What is this passage mostly about?

   A. the history of the United States B. bald eagles C. birds that live in deserts D. how to catch fish

2. **Detail:** When was the bald eagle chosen as the national bird?

   A. 1776 B. 1782 C. 1960 D. 1492

3. **Detail:** Why is the bald eagle called "bald"?

   A. It loses its feathers in winter. B. It was named by a person called Bald. C. It has no feathers. D. "Balded" is an old word for white.

4. **Vocabulary:** Talons are...

   A. nests B. feathers C. sharp, curved claws D. eyes

5. **Detail:** What is a bald eagle's favorite food?

   A. grass B. berries C. seeds D. fish

6. **Inference:** Why have bald eagle numbers grown since the 1960s?

ANSWER KEY

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