

Osprey Portrait

Osprey~Fish Hawk, *Pandion haliaetus*,



All Ages

Time: 1 hour

Supplies:

- ✓ Paper
- ✓ Pen, Markers, Pencil, Paint, Chalk, Crayons

Background:

Ornithology is the study of birds. **Osprey** are large birds of **prey** about the size of a small eagle. The top of head are white, streaked with dark brown and the chin, throat, chest and undertail is white. The back of the bird's body is chocolate brown. The chin, throat, breast, belly are white. There is a ridge of dark feathers (eyebrow) over the eye to reduce the glare of sunlight while hunting over sunlit waters. The **iris** (colored part of the eye) of a baby osprey ranges in color from red to orange. When the osprey is 3-5 years old it turns bright yellow. Its eyesight is eight times sharper than that of humans. The **beak** (nose and mouth) is black and sharp. An osprey's diet is 99% fish and for this reason, osprey also called fish hawks.



Objectives: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- **Perform a color study** of a native bird.
- **Learn to identify an osprey by silhouette**, noting color, size, beak shape.
- **Learn how to spell the common and scientific name** Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*
- **Learn to define:** osprey, portrait, iris, prey, raptor, silhouette, beak
- **Draw a bird's head** with drawing tools.
- **Students reflect and write a letter to Elizabeth River Project** about why it is important to protect and conserve habitat for wildlife and restore the Elizabeth River.

How To:

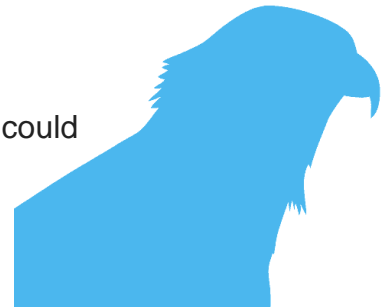
1. Find an Image of an Osprey

You could use the images provided or search the World Wide Web.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/o/osprey/>

2. Draw the Outline – Silhouette

Below is a **silhouette** you can use to draw the outline. **TIPS:** You could print out the image, place in a window with a blank sheet of paper over top to trace. Be careful when tracing that you don't damage windows, computer screen, etc. Markers may go through paper and baring down hard may leave marks. Test your method first.



3. Draw the Eye

Placing the eye will make it easier for you to add the other features such as the **beak** (bird's mouth) and feathers. **Raptors** (a bird of prey) like the osprey have excellent eyesight that face forward providing excellent depth perception and are key to finding prey fish in the Elizabeth River.

4. Draw the Beak

Osprey's beaks are black, short with a sharp hook that helps it tear into fish to eat. A Bald eagle has a yellow beak.

5. Decide if you want to add color.

You don't have to add color, but color is an important feature of birds for food, shelter and reproducing.

6. Have fun and send a photo so we can celebrate.

Send photo to: rdunbar@elizabethriver.org

Post on Facebook - Elizabeth River Project



Words

Ornithology – study of birds.

osprey – a large fish-eating bird of prey with long, narrow wings and a white underside and crown.

beak - a bird's horny mouth and nose.

iris - a colored, ring-shaped membrane behind the cornea of the eye, with a black circular opening (pupil) in the center.

portrait- a painting or drawing of the head.

prey - an animal that is hunted and killed by another for food.

raptor- a bird of prey.

silhouette - the dark shape and outline of something.

Virginia Standards of Learning:

This is a **STEAM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) that addresses multidisciplines and grade levels. http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/

Science: Ornithology

Technology: Using simple tools

Engineering: Constructing

Art: Creating a silhouette and portrait

Math: scale and size





