

# Osprey Masks

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 under-tail 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 how to spell the common and scientific name** Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*
- **Learn to define:** osprey, iris, prey, raptor, beak
- **Color and create 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. **Print or upload the black and white Osprey mask.**

Print on a computer printer if you want to color the mask by hand or upload to a computer program such as 3-D Paint and click and fill spaces with color digitally.

- ### 2. **Color the Mask.**
- Use crayons, chalk, colored pencils, pastels or markers if coloring by hand. If coloring digitally – use your imagination and have fun! Color the eyes golden yellow and make sure the crown of the head is white. The **beak** (bird's mouth) is black and the feathers are brown and white. **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.



3. **Tape or glue the mask onto sturdy paper.** You can print on card stock (thick paper) or attach to construction paper, a food box or cardboard.

4. **Tape a stick to the back of the mask and decorate.** You can use any sturdy stick found outside. Consider adding ribbon, glitter or any other decoration.

5. **Have fun and send a photo so we can celebrate.**

**Send photo to:** [rdunbar@elizabethriver.org](mailto: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 belly 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.

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

**raptor**- a bird of prey.

## **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/](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/)

**Science:** Ornithology

**Technology:** Using simple tools

**Engineering:** Constructing

**Art:** Creating a mask

**Math:** scale and size





