



Teacher/Student Resources

OSPREY

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Topics and Keywords

Science and Technology
Environmental Problems
Pollution
Water Quality

Predation
Migration
Pesticides
Clean Water Act

Birds of prey/Raptors
Food web/Food chain
Bioaccumulation
Biomagnification

WATCH

“On The Water & In The Field, Ospreys - They’re Back!”

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/kTXZAJRFw6A>

It is spring and the Ospreys are back. In this video, we look into the plight of the Osprey, where they were, and where they are now.

RESPOND

Answer (can be completed by watching the video and reading included fact sheets)

Why did the osprey population crash?

- Overhunting of ospreys
- Poor water quality
- Pollution from pesticides, like DDT
- B and C are correct

How many eggs to ospreys lay each season?

- 2-3
- 10-20
- only 1
- 100s

What is the main source of food for ospreys?

- Mice and rodents
- Plants
- Fish
- Smaller birds

Why do ospreys migrate south in the winter and back north in the spring/summer?

How do ospreys hunt and catch prey?

- In their beaks
- In their talons
- With their wings

Why do ospreys return to the same nest year after year?

What impacts do human activities have on ospreys?

Where do osprey build their nests?

- On the ground
- On top of tall, exposed structures
- Hidden in low shrubs

How are “Bird Cams” different from typical documentaries and traditional scientific observation?

Discuss (encourage collaboration, debate, and critical thinking based on video and fact sheets)

Do you think it is ethical for scientists to interfere if an animal is in danger from a natural cause, such as heavy snowfall covering an osprey in a nest? Why or why not? What if the animal is on the endangered species list?

Do you think it is ethical for scientists to interfere if an animal is in danger from a human-caused problem, such as an osprey entangled in fishing line? Why or why not?

The Clean Water Act of 1970 implemented regulations to reduce pollution of our freshwater bodies. The 1972 ban on DDT stopped the use of this harmful pesticide in the US. Both measures have led to a remarkable recovery for the osprey population.

If you were in charge, what other laws would you pass to protect wildlife such as the osprey?

What can you do as a citizen to help protect the species?

Research and Explore (encourage gathering of additional information beyond the video and fact sheets)

Draw a food chain or food web for the osprey. Include at least one primary producer, primary consumer, secondary consumer, and top predator.

How are ospreys different from and similar to other raptors and birds of prey, such as the bald eagle?

Explore Bird Cam Footage

Long Island Footage: ospreyzone.com

National Footage: Cornell Lab of Ornithology - Bird Cams

Georgia - www.allaboutbirds.org/cams/savannah-ospreys

Montana - www.allaboutbirds.org/cams/hellgate-ospreys

Jot down a question about osprey. Click on the links below to check out some currently active bird cams. If it is too early to see active cams, look through the years of archived footage. Observe a cam for 10 mins. Take note of what you witness. Was your original question answered? What further questions do you have about osprey now?

Notice the differences in the osprey nests from southern places like Georgia and northern places like Montana or Long Island. What materials are they made of? Which osprey cams would you expect to see activity in earlier in the season? Why?

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