



## Raptor Resource Project Lesson Plans

To find more plans, go to [www.raptorresource.org](http://www.raptorresource.org)

### Lesson Plan: Home Sweet Home

<b>Grade/Level</b>	Intermediate, Middle School
<b>Time Allotment</b>	1-2 class periods
<b>Content Area(s)</b>	Life Science, Habitat, Animal Behavior, Human intervention

#### Objectives

Students will understand the basics of peregrine falcon habitat and nesting behavior and how human intervention mimics and helps it.

#### Curricular Connections

- ESS3: Earth and Human Activity
- LS1: From Molecules to Organisms: Structure and Function
- LS2: Ecosystems: Interaction, Energy and Dynamics
- LS4: Biological Evolution, Unity and Diversity

#### Instructional Materials

- Videos from RRP website
- Materials for students to complete activity: paper and notebooks.

#### Resources

- First egg of 2020: <https://www.raptorresource.org/2020/03/26/1st-egg-at-great-spirit-bluff/>
- Nova lays 3rd egg: <https://youtu.be/V85S1cXn6-k>
- Quick facts: <https://www.raptorresource.org/birdcams/gsb-falcons/>

## Background Knowledge

Teachers may want to use parts of these articles about the history of falcon recovery and re-introduction along the Upper Mississippi and in Minnesota; comprehension will depend on the age and reading ability of students.

- <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mcvmagazine/issues/2020/mar-apr/peregrines.html>
- <https://www.raptorresource.org/about-us/remembering-bob-anderson/>

This blog about nest-building discusses several types of nests that birds build. It includes pictures, information about RRP nests, and links to more articles and papers about birds and nest building.

- <https://www.raptorresource.org/2019/10/29/birds-and-nest-building/>

This peregrine falcon blog has a lot of information about peregrine falcons in general and the GSB site in particular.

- <https://www.raptorresource.org/2020/03/22/peregrine-falcons-great-spirit-bluff-lifestyles-of-the-fast-and-furious/>

## Opener

- Ask students to draw a typical bird's nest. Discuss their ideas and also where the nests would be found, what materials are usually used, shape of nest, etc.
- Discuss what students know about peregrine falcons.

## Procedure/Method/Activity

This activity can be done as an entire class, with partners/small groups or individually.

1. Students watch the videos (or parts of them) listed in the resources. Discuss: what surprised you? Where's the nest? How does this differ from your original ideas of nests? What is a nest box? Explain that these videos are from a location along the Upper Mississippi River known as Great Spirit Bluff (GSB)
2. Students research the natural habitat of peregrine falcons and some background on their population decline. Start by reading the quick facts on the RRP website. Resources listed above may also be helpful or other online information.
3. Students research and discuss why and how nest boxes such as the one at GSB are used and how they helped in the re-introduction and population recovery of falcons.
4. Students complete a chart comparing the peregrine's natural habitat and the nest box, etc. at the Great Spirit Bluff site.

**Assessment**

Students write a paragraph explaining how the set up at GSB benefits the falcons and why it is successful.

**Extension**

Research/discuss other ways humans intervene to help nature and the pros and cons of these actions.