



Video 4 Teacher Resource – [Raptor biology \(5:42\)](#) [body, features, skeleton]

Questions of the day:

- How much does the heaviest flying bird weigh?
- What's the average wingspan of the Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle?
- What's the largest confirmed recorded wingspan of the Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle?



Tuning in: Today we find out how an eagle is put together, and what special features it has that make it such a good predator.

Finding out: Fast Facts on the Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle (*Aquila audax fleayi*) or 'wedgie'

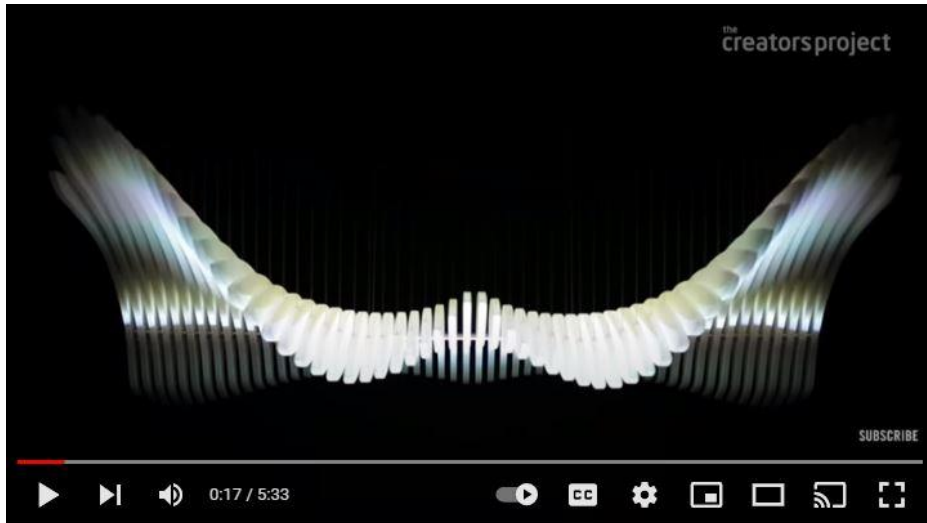
- Largest bird of prey in Australia with a wing span of 2.3 m.
- Females are slightly larger than males at 105 cm in length and weigh up to 4 kg.
- The Tasmanian wedgie is a subspecies (*Aquila audax fleayi*). It has lighter feathers on the nape of the neck, and longer talons than the mainland wedge-tailed eagle.
- The tail is long and flares outwards before tapering to a wedge-shaped point, and the long legs are feathered down to the base of the toes.
- This bird is more likely to be seen in flight, soaring high on air currents. There you can recognise its distinctive silhouette, with up curved wingtips, flight feathers stretched out like fingers, and that long wedge-shaped tail.

Like to find out more? You can get a really good look at both a peregrine falcon and a Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle in [this video of James and Andrew Hughes visiting wildlife carer Ange Anderson](#) on their adventure in 2018 (note the survey dates were slightly different that year).



Going further: [Bunjil's Wings](#)

The unique design and function of the wedge-tailed eagle's wings are adaptations integral to its biology, its success as a predator and its survival. They captivate the intrigue and inquiry of scientists and artists alike. Further to this, Bunji's wings feature prominently in creation stories.



[Bunjil's Wings](#) by [ENESS](#), is a massive kinetic sculpture that takes the form of an eagle.

“Within the nest hangs a marvellous kinetic sculpture that represents Bunjil’s wings, the sinuous curves of the Country he created, and the cycle of creation itself. As it moves and glows, Koorie Elders speak of Bunjil singing the Country, Law and people of the Kulin nation into being”

- Museums Victoria - Bunjil's wings

In [this video](#), members of the exhibition team talk about the Creation Cinema and Bunjil's Nest, and show you a preview of Bunjil's wings in flight. Bunjil's wings is an immersive, multi-sensory experience currently on display as part of the [First Peoples exhibition](#) at Australia's [Melbourne Museum](#).

Sorting out: Activity 1 - Create a wedge-tailed eagle mind map

James and Clare's video shares a range of interesting facts and figures about the Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle, and what makes it unique and distinct from its mainland wedgie cousins. We're learning about the important biological features of the Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle, and day 4 is a good point at which we must start to consolidate what we've discovered about the wedgie.



Reflect and Act: Teacher resources for mind mapping:

If you're looking for some guidance in respect to creating mind maps with your primary students, we've gathered up some helpful resources to assist! The [Mind Meister](#) web resource offers a suite of helpful mind mapping templates and lesson plans; many of which can be adapted and contextualised for individual and collective wedge-tailed mind mapping. [This video](#) (from 1 min 40 seconds) outlines some excellent scaffolds for building a mind map - How to create mind maps for good thinking and memory. This [further video](#) provides some excellent insight into the how/why for creating mind maps with your students

Australian Curriculum v9.0 links:

Year 3-4:

Science (Strands: Science inquiry, Science understanding)

- (Sub-strand: Biological sciences) Compare characteristics of living and non-living things and examine the differences between the life cycles of plants and animals (AC9S3U01)
- (Sub-strand: Communicating) Write and create texts to communicate findings and ideas for identified purposes and audiences, using scientific vocabulary and digital tools as appropriate (AC9S3I06)

Visual Arts (Strands: Exploring and responding, Developing practices and skills)

- Explore where, why and how visual arts are created and/or presented across cultures, times, places and/or other contexts (AC9AVA4E01).
- Experiment with a range of ways to use visual conventions, visual arts processes and materials (AC9AVA4D01).

Technologies (Strand: Knowledge and understanding)

- (Sub-strand: Technologies and society) Examine design and technologies occupations and factors including sustainability that impact on the design of products, services and environments to meet community needs (AC9TDE4K01).
- (Sub-strand: Technologies context - Engineering principles and systems; Materials and technologies specialisations) Describe how forces and the properties of materials affect function in a product or system (AC9TDE4K02).

HASS (Strand: Knowledge and understanding;

- (Sub-strand: Geography) Understand and appreciate the ways First Nations Australians in different parts of Australia are interconnected with Country/Place (AC9HS3K04)
- (Sub-strand: Questioning and researching) Locate, collect and record information and data from a range of sources, including annotated timelines and maps (AC9HS3S02)



Victorian Curriculum links:

Level 3 and 4 Content Descriptions:

Visual Arts

- (Strand: Explore and Express Ideas) Explore ideas and artworks from different cultures and times as inspiration to create visual artworks ([VCAVAE025](#))
- (Strand: Visual Arts Practices) Explore visual conventions and use materials, techniques, technologies and processes specific to particular art forms, and to make artworks ([VCAVAV026](#))

References:

ENESS (2022). *Bunjil kinetic sculpture*. Retrieved from: <https://www.eness.com/permanent/bunjil>

ENESS (2014). *Kinetic Sculpture Brings Mythic Eagle To Life*. Retrieved from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BO0q83dY3EQ>

Expedition Class (2018). *Roaring Beach Wildlife Rescue*. Retrieved from: <https://expeditionclass.com/live.php?expedition=15&day=11>

Mind Meister (2022). *Mind mapping for teachers: Tips, tools and lesson plans*. Retrieved <https://www.mindmeister.com/blog/teach-mind-mapping/>

How people learn book (2020). *Mind mapping for kids | How to create mind maps for good thinking and memory | Tutorial 9 part 2*. Retrieved from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2TFD4uE55c>

Museums Victoria (2022). *Bunjil's wings*. Retrieved from: <https://museums victoria.com.au/article/bunjils-wings/>

Museums Victoria (2022). Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre, *First Peoples*. Retrieved from:

Teachings in Education (2020). *Mind Mapping | Teaching Strategies #3*. Retrieved from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xCyjFipyRE>