

## Arizona Wildlife Podcast Comprehension Activity

### Episode 18: Bald Eagle Breeding Biology and Behavior

**Part A:** Determine whether each statement below is true or false. If it is false, correct the statement so that it will be true.

- Most bald eagles in Arizona are found in the mountains in the northern and eastern parts of the state.

**False.** Most eagles are found in central Arizona along the Salt and Verde Rivers.

- In order to protect the nestlings from drowning learning to fly, eagles will build their nests more than a mile from water and the adults will fly in to find food.

**False.** Most nests are built within a mile from water.

- Because of the warmer climate, eagles in Arizona will breed later than those in other states.

**False.** Eagles breed earlier in Arizona because of the milder winters.

- Bald eagles usually only lay one or two eggs at a time.

**True.**

**Part B:** Compare and contrast the items described in the sentences below.

- Bald eagle nest site locations in Arizona and the rest of the country.

**Everywhere, eagles will create nests in large trees. In Arizona, those trees are usually cottonwoods or pine trees. However, Arizona is one of the few places where they will also use cliffs and pinnacles to build nests if suitable, tall trees are not available.**

- Eagle breeding density along the regulated sections of the Salt and Verde Rivers along with the unregulated sections of those rivers.

**Along the unregulated sections of the rivers and within the regulated sections of the Salt River, there is usually one nest every twenty kilometers or so. In the regulated section of the Verde, however, nests are located about five kilometers from each other.**

- The egg laying behavior of chickens and bald eagles.

**Chickens will lay one egg each day until their nest is full. Then, the eggs will be incubated. They will all hatch at the same time. Eagles will usually only lay one to two eggs. Eggs may be laid at different times. However, incubation will start when each egg is laid. Therefore, one will likely hatch before the other.**

- Bald eagles before and after their first molt.

**Before they molt, the feathers are wider and longer. This provides them with a little more support while they learn to fly. Once they molt, the feathers get smaller.**

**Part C:** Assume a bald eagle lays an egg on January 15. Create a timeline in the space below that shows the major events that occur between the first egg being laid and the baby leaving the nest to live on its own. Be sure to label the events and the dates.

