

Arizona Wildlife Podcast Comprehension Activity

Episode 19: Bald Eagle History and Evolution

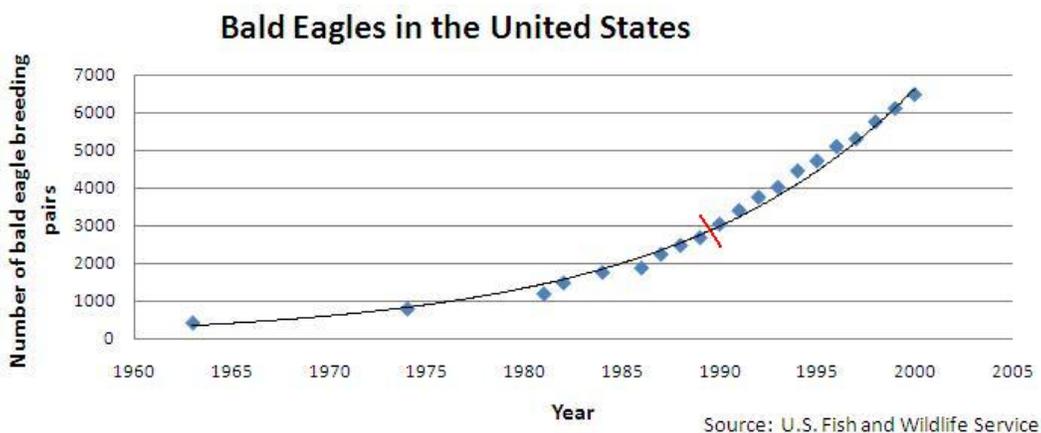
Part A: Determine whether each statement below is true or false. If it is false, correct the statement so that it will be true.

1. Bald eagles and golden eagles are more closely related to Old World vultures than they are to hawks and falcons.
2. Habitat loss was the primary cause of the bald eagle decline in North America.
3. Bald eagles are found in every state except Hawaii.

Part B: The paragraph below is a summary of bald eagle history in Arizona as it was discussed in the podcast. However, there are four mistakes. Identify and correct these errors.

Bald eagles have been in North America for at least 600,000 years. However, they are relatively new to Arizona. The first bald eagle was discovered in the state by Alexander Mearns in 1790 at Stoneman Lake. Then, in the 1930s, because of pesticide use in their natural habitat, the bald eagles were first discovered nesting in a desert environment at two separate locations. Those two nests are still actively used today. In fact, one of those nests is now the largest one in the state at approximately eight feet tall. Although bald eagles were removed from the Endangered Species list in 1995, the Arizona population is treated as a distinct population and is still protected.

Part C: Below is a graph of bald eagle breeding pairs found in the United States recently. Use the graph to answer the question.



1. Notice the mark at the year 1990. This signifies a turning point in the recovery of the bald eagles. What best explains the increased population prior to 1990? And after?