

Vulture Culture

Read and understand.



There are many kinds of vulture. They live in hills and mountains. Most vultures have a bald head and neck. They can stay clean when eating. They usually eat dead or sick animals. Their feathers are different from the other birds.

This is an Andean condor. It is beautiful to see this vulture flying in the sky. Here are some facts.

Where do they live?

These vultures live in the mountain of South America. They can fly for hundreds of miles looking for food.

What do they look like?

The condor is the largest flying bird. It can weigh up to 13 kg. Condors can be over 1 metre tall. They can be more than 3 metres from wingtip to wingtip.

Condors have black and white feathers. The feathers on their bodies are black. Some feathers on their necks and wings are white. The male condor has grey eyes. The female condor has red eyes. This vulture has a bald head. The skin on its head is dark red.

What do they eat?

They eat dead animals. Condors do not usually kill animals. They fly high above the mountains, until they see a dead animal. Then they dive down to eat it. They use their beak and claws to pull the flesh apart. Sometimes a condor will catch a baby animal to eat.

How do they breed?

Andean condors start to breed when they are 6 years old. Female condors lay their eggs in the summer - every two years. They can only lay one egg at a time. They don't make a nest - they lay the egg on a bare ledge of rock on a cliff or in a cave. Both parents keep it at the right temperature by sitting on it. Nearly two months later, a condor chick hatches from the egg.



The condor chick can't fly until it is about 6 months old. Its parents have to feed it.

It stays with its parents until it is at least 1 year old, but then it is ready for some adventures of its own.

A condor can live for as long as 50 years.

Vocabulary

Look and read their meanings.

1. dive - go down
2. temperature - heat or cold
3. adventure - Quest / journey
4. pleasure - enjoyment
5. future - coming up/ not yet happened
6. breed - produce more
7. bare - open / uncovered
8. ledge - edge

Reread and write their meanings.

1. dive - _____
2. temperature - _____
3. adventure - _____
4. pleasure - _____
5. future - _____

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Answer these questions.

A. Write 'who' or 'what' the pronouns are referring to :

1. ¹It - _____
2. ²They - _____
3. ³They - _____
4. ⁴it - _____
5. ⁵it - _____

B. Fill in the missing words.

above	see	capture	rare
dives	flesh	eat	claws

Condors 1. _____ animals of all kinds, but it is 2. _____ for a condor to kill one. Flying high 3. _____ the mountains, a condor can 4. _____ an animal which has died or been killed. Then it 5. _____ down to eat it, using its beak and 6. _____ to pull the 7. _____ apart.

Now and again, a condor will 8. _____ a baby animal to eat.

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C. Answer these questions.

1. Where do vultures live?

Vultures live _____

2. How much does a condor weigh?

A condor weighs _____

3. What do condors eat?

Condors eat _____

4. Where do the female condors lay their egg?

Female condors lay their egg _____

5. How long can a condor live?

A condor can live _____