



FALCONRY

Falconry is the hunting of wild animals in their natural state and habitat by means of a trained bird of prey. The person involved in falconry is usually referred to as falconer (though the terms hawking and hawker may also be used)

*In modern falconry, the red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), Harris's hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*), and the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) are some of the most commonly used birds of prey. Some eagles and even owls can also be used but they are far less common.*

This traditional Arabian sport, an icon of current Emirati and Arab culture, grew throughout Europe. However, evidence suggests that the art of falconry may have begun in Mesopotamia, with the earliest accounts dating to around 2,000 BC and its practice was also deeply rooted in Mongolia since time immemorial.

Falconry was probably introduced to Europe around 400 AD, when the Huns and the Alans invaded from the east. But a comprehensive knowledge of traditional falconry was not compiled till the work of the German king **Frederick II von Hohenstaufen** (1194–1250), who obtained firsthand knowledge of Arabic falconry during wars in the region (between June 1228 and June 1229) and wrote the treatise *De arte venandi cum avibus* (*The Art of Hunting with Birds*).

Except within nomadic societies such as the Bedouin, falconry has been historically restricted to the noble classes due to money, space and free time needed to practice it.

(source: Wikipedia)

1) Questions on the text:

- a) What type of birds are used in falconry?**
- b) What's a synonym for falconer?**
- c) Can owls be used in falconry?**
- d) Where did falconry begin?**
- e) Where is falconry more iconic these days?**
- f) What was the name of a very important mediaeval treatise on falconry?**
- g) Who wrote it?**
- h) Has falconry traditionally been related to the common folk?**

2) Use the Net to choose the answers to the following questions about things mentioned in the text.

- a) Which language is used for the scientific names of animals? (Clue: it is the same language in which the medieval treatise mentioned in the text was written)**
- b) What is the name of the religious wars between Christians and Muslims such as the one in which Frederick II took part?**
- c) Where do the Bedouin live?**
- d) When did Mongolia erupt into world history?**

2nd part – LISTENING EXERCISE

Birds of prey and falconry have caught the imagination of men throughout history to the extent that we can find many mentions of them in literature, history and cinema...

Even Marvel based one of their superheroes on one of these birds!!!

Watch the trailer of the Disney Series *Falcon and the Winter Soldier*. Then choose the missing words in the transcript below.

Woman: So, _____ would like to start? Mr. Barnes _____ does Sam aggravate you?

Soldier: 15 seconds 'til _____!!!

Mr. Barnes: So, what's our _____? Hey, great!

Dark voice: Superheroes cannot be _____ to exist. I have no intention to _____ my work unfinished.

Mr. Barnes: The _____ upside down right now.

Falcon: Where do we start now?

Falcon: Buck, I have a plan.

Mr. Barnes: Oh, yeah? What is it?

Girl: Here we go again.

Falcon: That little girl kicked _____ ass.

Woman: See? That wasn't so _____. Ok, what are you doing? Are you having a _____ contest? Just _____!!! Sweet Jesus! I mean, how old are you?