

Vultures

Name: _____

Vulture Facts

• Vultures are large, scavenging birds of prey that eat carrion.

• The Ruppell's vulture is one of the world's highest flying birds. In 1973 one collided with an airplane at 11 200 m.

• A threatened vulture uses its smelly, corrosive vomit as a defensive projectile.

• Vultures can weigh up to 12 kg and have a wingspan of up to 3 m.

• A flight of vultures circling together is called a kettle.

Do you know any more interesting facts about vultures?

Vulture Eyesight

Vultures have incredible eyesight. A soaring vulture can spot a 1 metre animal carcass from up to 6 km away.

Write different letters of the alphabet on some small sheets of paper.

On a playing field, place the letters at various distances. Record the maximum distance where you can accurately identify different letters.

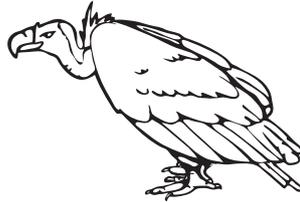
Repeat this exercise using a pair of binoculars or a telescope. Describe the difference when you were able to see 'like a vulture'.

Vulture Restaurant

Vultures mainly feed on the carcasses of dead animals. Vultures stomach acid is very corrosive. It kills bacteria and infections which would be lethal to any other birds of prey.

Imagine you are opening a restaurant for vultures. Design and write a humorous menu for your vulture guests.

What is the name of your restaurant?
What are your most popular dishes?



Vulture Report

In many films there is a common image of vultures circling overhead in the desert waiting for their 'lunch' to die. Vultures became a symbol of impending death. This image, combined with the fact they eat carrion, means that vultures are usually not popular with people. However, vultures do serve a purpose.

Write a short information report explaining how vultures serve a useful purpose in disposing of dead and decaying animal remains.

What might happen if there were no vultures?

What other animals mainly eat carrion?

Number Crunchers

Vinnie the vulture flew every day for a week looking for a tasty bit of carrion. (That's the carcasses of dead animals)

Here are the distances Vinnie flew each day.

Monday	86 km
Tuesday	98 km
Wednesday	140 km
Thursday	66 km
Friday	44 km
Saturday	114 km
Sunday	93 km

What was the total distance Vinnie flew in the week?

How much further did Vinnie fly on Saturday than on Thursday?

Write the days in order from the longest distance to the shortest distance flown.

