



OXFORD

# Vulture culture

Set 7 Story 10

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Series developed by Ruth Miskin



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# Speed sounds

**Vowels** Say the sounds in and out of order.

a	e ea	i	o	u	ay <u>a</u> -e a ai aigh	ee ea e y	igh <u>i</u> -e i y	ow <u>o</u> -e oa o
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oo <u>u</u> -e ue ew	oo	ar	or oor ore aw au	air are	ir ur er	ou ow	oy oi	ire	ear	ure
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**Word endings** Make a list of words with these endings.

ture sure	ous e <u>o</u> s ci <u>o</u> s ti <u>o</u> s	able ab <u>l</u> y ib <u>l</u> e	tion
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Each box contains one sound but sometimes more than one grapheme. Focus graphemes are **circled**.

## Green words

*Read in Fred Talk (pure sounds).*

huge glide white time rare bare both year more

*Read in syllables.*

be`cause be`ha`vi`our vul`ture cul`ture pic`ture na`ture  
mix`ture fea`ture cap`ture temp`er`a`ture fu`ture crea`ture  
ad`ven`ture mea`sure plea`sure

*Read the root word first and then with the ending.*

die	→	died	fly	→	flying	body	→	bodies
u <u>s</u> e	→	using	lar <u>g</u> e	→	lar <u>g</u> est			



## Red words

one   some   their   where   they   many   are   were  
come   two

## Challenge word

metre   weigh   height

# Vulture culture

## *Introduction*

*Do you know what a vulture looks like? Where is South America?  
In South America there are some special vultures called Andean condors.*

*They are enormous. When their wings are stretched out they  
are as wide as 3 metres. How far is 3 metres from here?  
They glide above the mountains of South America looking  
for dead animals to eat.*

*Do you think they live like birds in our country?  
How long do you think they live for?*







# Vocabulary check

Discuss the meaning (as used in the text) after the children have read each word.

**glide**

definition:

*fly without flapping*

sentence/phrase:

*They can glide for many hundreds of miles above the mountains.*

**wing tip**

*the tip of the wing*

*From wingtip to wingtip, they can measure more than 3 metres.*

**bald**

*no hair*

*An odd feature of this vulture is its bald head.*

**rare**

*unusual*

*but it is rare for a condor to kill one.*

**ledge of rock**

*small ridge on a mountain*

*They lay the egg on a bare ledge of rock.*

**temperature**

*heat*

*Both parents keep it at the right temperature by sitting on it.*

**extinct**

*all gone, died out*

*In 1973, Andean condors were almost extinct, because too many had been hunted and killed.*

*Punctuation to note in this text:*

- 1. Capital letters to start sentences and full stops to end sentences*
- 2. Capital letters for names*

## Vulture culture

This is a picture of an Andean condor. When it is flying, this huge vulture is one of the most amazing sights in nature. Let's find out some facts about Andean condors and their behaviour.



## Where do they live?

These vultures live in the mountain ranges of South America.

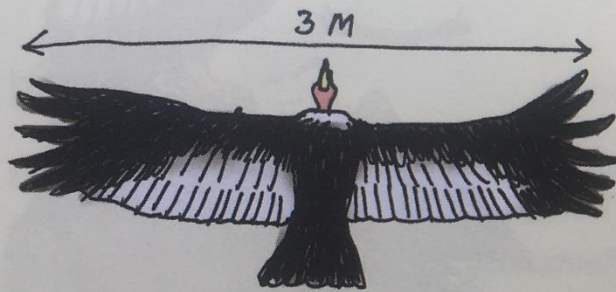
They can glide for many hundreds of miles above the mountains, looking for food.



## What do they look like?

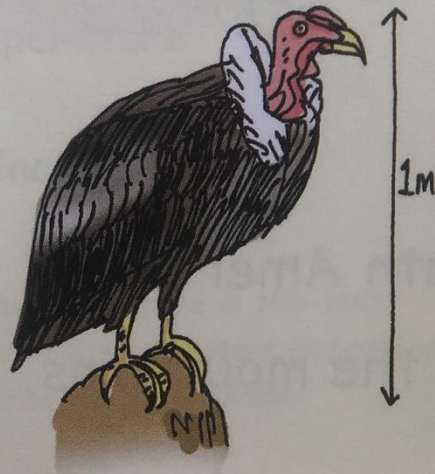
The condor is the largest of the flying birds.

Condors can weigh as much as 13 kilograms.



They can measure over  
1 metre in height.

From wingtip to wingtip, they can  
measure more than 3 metres.



Condors have a mixture of black and white feathers.

The feathers on their bodies are black,  
with some white feathers on their necks and wings.

The eyes of a male condor are grey.

The eyes of a female condor are red.



An odd feature of this vulture  
is its bald head.

The skin on its head is a dark red.



## What do they eat?

They eat animals of all kinds, but it is rare for a condor to kill one. Flying high above the mountains, a condor can spot an animal which has died or been killed.

Then it dives down to eat it, using its beak and claws to pull the flesh apart.

Now and again, a condor will capture 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 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 chick can't fly until it is about 6 months old,  
and 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.

## The future



In 1973, Andean condors were almost extinct, because too many had been hunted and killed.

Nowadays there are many more of them, and the future looks good for these proud creatures. We will have the pleasure of seeing them for many years to come.



# Questions to talk about

Re-read the page. Read the question to the children. Tell them whether it is a **FIND IT** question or **PROVE IT** question.

## FIND IT

- ✓ Turn to the page
- ✓ Read the question
- ✓ Find the answer

## PROVE IT

- ✓ Turn to the page
- ✓ Read the question
- ✓ Find your evidence
- ✓ Explain why

Page 9:	FIND IT	What is an Andean condor? Where do they live?
Page 10:	FIND IT	What does from 'wingtip to wingtip' mean?
Page 11:	FIND IT	What is the difference between a male and female condor? What is odd about the condor?
Page 12:	FIND IT	What do condors eat? How do they eat their food?
Page 13:	PROVE IT	What is unusual about where condors lay their eggs? How do you think condors feel about their eggs?
Page 14:	PROVE IT	Why do you think condor chicks stay with their parents for so long?
Page 15:	FIND IT	Why were condors at risk in 1973?

## Questions to read and answer

*(Children complete without your help.)*

1. Where do Andean condors live?
2. What do condors look like?
3. What do condors eat?
4. When do young condor's leave their parents?
5. Why do you think condors should be protected from hunters?



## Speed words

Children practise reading the words across the rows, down the columns and in and out of order clearly and quickly.

rare	bare	year	bodies	nearly
died	vulture	picture	temperature	behaviour
pleasure	colour	because	come	many
where	they	some	walk	two