

# Unit 1

## Animals: Birds of Prey



👁️ This eagle expertly grabs a fish out of the water.





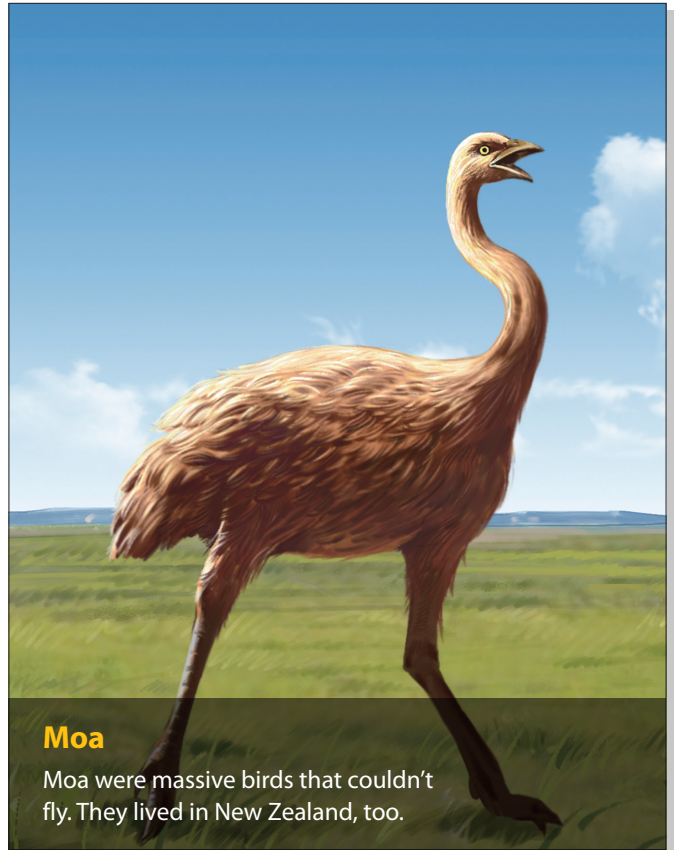
# Lesson 1

## Haast's Eagle



### Haast's Eagle

Haast's Eagle is a type of gigantic eagle that once lived in New Zealand.



### Moa

Moa were massive birds that couldn't fly. They lived in New Zealand, too.





## 1 Pre-Reading



**Animals:** Birds of Prey

### A Discussion

1. Look at the pictures on the opposite page, then answer and discuss these questions with a partner or as a class.

- What do you think Haast's Eagle ate? What do you think the Moa ate?
- Both the Moa and Haast's Eagle are now extinct. Why might this be?
- Who do you think Haast's Eagle is named after?

2. Which do you think is true? Compare and discuss your answers.

- In New Zealand, the only native mammals are bats.  T  F
- Haast's Eagle could attack and kill small children.  T  F
- Haast's Eagle was the largest eagle that ever lived.  T  F

### B Key Vocabulary

Look at the words in bold type in the passage on the next page. Write each word next to its definition using the *base form* of the word.

- \_\_\_\_\_ when something becomes impossible to find
- \_\_\_\_\_ to make a hole in something
- \_\_\_\_\_ almost or nearly
- \_\_\_\_\_ all the food that a human or animal eats
- \_\_\_\_\_ to break suddenly, usually with a sharp cracking noise
- \_\_\_\_\_ animals
- \_\_\_\_\_ to grab or take something forcefully
- \_\_\_\_\_ good at one particular thing
- \_\_\_\_\_ an animal that eats previously dead animals
- \_\_\_\_\_ to eat a diet of leaves taken from different plants



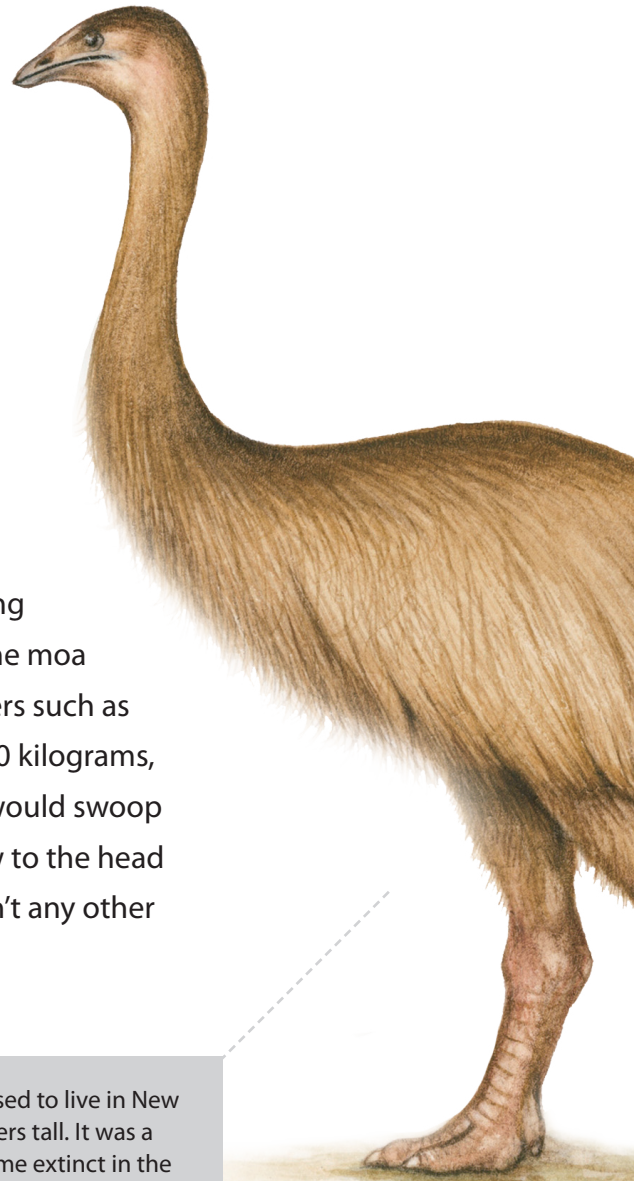
# Haast's Eagle

Track 01

New Zealand is an unusual country because it is so isolated. Animals that evolved\* on other continents couldn't reach New Zealand, so the country has its own, unique **fauna**. Land mammals were **practically** unknown, and birds evolved to take their place. A New Zealand predator is one example of this evolution. While other continents had predator mammals, such as tigers, lions, and bears, New Zealand had a giant bird of prey called "Haast's Eagle."

Haast's Eagle was a very impressive bird. It was the largest eagle that has ever lived. It weighed between 9 and 15 kilograms and had a wingspan of about three meters. The total length of its body, including its long tail, could be as much as 1.4 meters. That's about twice as big as an American bald eagle.

New Zealand's largest predator **specialized** in attacking and eating another New Zealand bird called the moa. The moa was a **browsing** bird, with a **diet** similar to other browsers such as deer and goats. Moa were very large, weighing up to 180 kilograms, and they couldn't fly. When Haast's Eagle saw a moa, it would swoop down at 80 kilometers per hour, kill the moa with a blow to the head or neck, and **seize** it with its talons. Because there weren't any other



## Fact File

The moa was a large flightless bird that used to live in New Zealand. It could grow to be over 3.5 meters tall. It was a herbivore, so it only ate plants. Moa became extinct in the 1400s because Māori hunted them for food.

## Glossary

\* evolved - developed slowly over time



large predators or **scavengers** in New Zealand, the Haast's Eagle probably ate the dead moa over a number of days.

Haast's Eagle must have been very powerful. Scientists  
25 say that it probably had enough power in its talons to **snap**  
a human's neck, or to **puncture** a human skull. Because of  
this, it may have been a danger to Māori people, especially  
children. Scientists say that Māori people may have  
destroyed Haast's Eagle nests to protect themselves and  
30 their families.

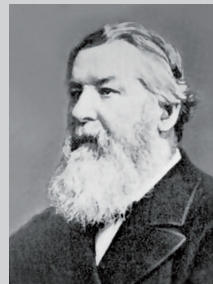
Sadly, Haast's Eagle became extinct sometime around  
1400 AD. Māori-nest hunting parties probably contributed  
to the eagle's decline, but the main reason Haast's Eagle  
became extinct was the **disappearance** of its prey.

35 The moa wasn't just a favorite food of Haast's Eagle,  
but a favorite food of Māori as well. Eventually,  
the moa disappeared, and Haast's Eagle soon  
followed. It was another example of the  
impact that humans have had on New

40 Zealand's native animals. 375 words

### Fact File

Haast's Eagle was first classified by Julius von Haast, a German geologist working in New Zealand. He gave it the Latin name it *Harpagornis moorei*, after the owner of the property where it was discovered.



New Zealand is an island country in the South Pacific Ocean.

New Zealand



The talons on eagles are strong and sharp.

Talons



This illustration shows how Māori hunters used to dress.

Māori





## 2 During Reading

### Reading Skill Tip

### A Scanning for Information

Circle the correct answer.

When you are scanning, don't read every word, and don't stop when you see a word you don't know. Read quickly and stop only to find the information you are looking for.

#### 1. Why couldn't the animals on other continents come to New Zealand?

- a. New Zealand has its own, unique fauna.
- b. There were many birds in New Zealand.
- c. New Zealanders didn't want any non-native animals.
- d. New Zealand is so isolated.

#### 2. What was impressive about Haast's Eagle?

- a. It was very large.
- b. It lived in New Zealand.
- c. It ate dead moa over a number of days.
- d. It became extinct.

#### 3. Why may Māori people have destroyed Haast's Eagle nests?

- a. to make it easier to hunt Haast's Eagles
- b. to protect themselves from Haast's Eagle attacks
- c. to protect the moa
- d. to use the nests for firewood

#### 4. Which sentence about the moa is true?

- a. It ate deer and goats.
- b. It flew away and hid from Haast's Eagles.
- c. It was a favorite food of the Māori.
- d. It was smaller than Haast's Eagle.

#### 5. Which sentence about Haast's Eagle is NOT true?

- a. It was affected by climate change.
- b. It probably ate a dead moa over a number of days.
- c. It may have been a danger to the Māori people.
- d. It must have been very powerful.

## B-1 Organizing Information: Identifying Cause and Effect

Complete the chart.

<i>Cause</i>	<i>Effect</i>
New Zealand is so isolated.	_____
_____	Birds evolved to take the place of land mammals.
Haast's Eagle probably had _____ _____ in its talons to _____ or to _____.	It may have been a danger to the Māori people, especially children.
The moa disappeared.	_____

### Reading Skill Tip

Identify the various actions that occur in the passage. Now consider the consequences of each of those actions. Use this method to summarize what happened in the passage.

## B-2 Organizing Information: Compare and Contrast

Complete the chart.

	<i>Haast's Eagle</i>	<i>Moa</i>
<i>weight</i>	_____	_____
<i>length</i>	_____	No information
<i>ability to fly?</i>	_____	_____
<i>favorite food</i>	_____	_____

### Reading Skill Tip

When you compare and contrast, you explore the similarities and differences between two or more things.



**Reading Skill Tip**

Think about how the target word is related to the topic of the passage. Then look at the words around the target word to guess its meaning.

**C Understanding Words in Context** Circle the correct answer.

1. In line 20, what does the word *blow* mean?

- a. strong hit      b. cold wind      c. strong bite      d. sharp scratch

2. In line 21, what does the word *talons* mean?

- a. pointed beak      b. wide wings      c. strong legs      d. hooked claws

**Reading Skill Tip**

While making inferences, you combine the information in the passage with your general knowledge.

**D Making Inferences** Circle the correct answer.

1. In line 32, what do you think “Māori nest-hunting parties” were?

- a. Māori people finding moa nests and destroying them  
 b. Māori people finding moa nests and protecting them  
 c. Māori people finding Haast’s Eagle nests and destroying them  
 d. Māori people finding Haast’s Eagle nests and protecting them

2. In line 36, “Eventually, the moa disappeared, and Haast’s Eagle soon followed.” What can be inferred from this?

- a. The moa disappeared because Haast’s Eagle ate them all.  
 b. The moa ran away from Haast’s Eagle, but Haast’s Eagle followed them.  
 c. Haast’s Eagle disappeared before the moa became extinct.  
 d. Haast’s Eagle became extinct because its prey, the moa, disappeared.

**Reading Skill Tip**

Read carefully and choose the restatement that best summarizes the highlighted passage. Your goal should be to leave the meaning unchanged and to include all important information.

**E Recognizing Restatement** Circle the correct answer.

1. Which of the following sentences best restates the highlighted information in line 38?

- a. Humans killed all of the Haast’s Eagles.  
 b. There are many examples of human’s impact on New Zealand’s native animals. Haast’s Eagle is one of them.  
 c. Haast’s Eagle is the best example of human’s impact on New Zealand’s native animals.  
 d. Haast’s Eagle had a great impact on humans and native animals in New Zealand.

**Reading Skill Tip**

Read carefully and find out how the writer explains or accomplishes something in the passage/paragraph. For example, does the writer provide examples, describe something in detail, or compare different ideas?

**F Identifying Method** Circle the correct answer.

1. How does the writer introduce Haast’s Eagle in paragraph 1?

- a. by describing the size of Haast’s Eagle  
 b. by introducing the history of New Zealand  
 c. by discussing differences between birds and mammals  
 d. by explaining why New Zealand has a unique fauna

### 3 After Reading

#### A Vocabulary Practice Fill in the blanks.

puncture	specialize	fauna	disappearance	scavengers
diet	seize	snap	browse	practically

1. If I drive over a glass bottle, it will \_\_\_\_\_ my tire.
2. Don't climb that tree. That branch will \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Flora means plants, and \_\_\_\_\_ means animals.
4. In cities, wild cats are usually \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Good health comes from a good \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The police decided to \_\_\_\_\_ the criminal.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ all of my friends know how to swim.
8. Goats love to \_\_\_\_\_ trees and bushes.
9. The girl's \_\_\_\_\_ is a real mystery.
10. When I become a doctor, I think I will \_\_\_\_\_ in surgery.

#### B Synonyms and Antonyms Fill in the blanks using the words in the box above.

1	<i>break (v)</i>	=		3	<i>grab</i>	=	
2	<i>nearly</i>	=		4	<i>appearance</i>	↔	

= synonym ↔ antonym

#### C Discussion Talk with your partner and then have a class discussion.

1. Name one other animals that has become extinct.
2. What is the difference between predators and prey?
3. What predators do you know? What is their prey?

#### D Writing Practice Write your opinion and share it with your class.

I think the most interesting bird in the world is the \_\_\_\_\_ because

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