

Hunting Feet Worksheet

When people hear the word raptor, sharp talons usually come to mind! In fact, the word "raptor" originated from the Latin word rapere which means "to seize". A raptor's talons are made up of a hard covering made up of layers of keratin, a structural protein similar to human nails.

The size and shape of talons tell us a lot about a raptor's hunting style and what they eat.

Can you match the feet that belong to the birds below? *Hint: think about the type of animals each bird eats and the size and shape of talons they would need to help them capture the animals.*

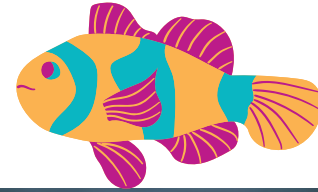
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Osprey



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Osprey have long, strongly curved talons that act like fish hooks to help them catch and hold on to slippery fish.



Cuban Black Hawk



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Hawks have large thick talons, especially on their first and second toes to secure struggling prey like rats and smaller birds.



Burrowing Owl



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Owls have relatively long talons compared to the shorter length of their toes to give them maximum leverage for securing small prey like lizards and frogs.

