



ADAPTATIONS – FIT FOR LIFE

Post-Visit Activities

Windows on Wildlife

We enjoyed visiting you. To learn more about raptor's amazing adaptations please read on.

Definitions

Adaptation

A change in a species that makes it fit for survival in a particular environment.



Eye spot

A marking on an animal which looks like an eye and confuses predators.

Activity – Eye Spy



Raptors are great hunters. But sometimes they are in danger of being hunted themselves. The American Kestrel has a strategy to prevent this. On the back of its neck there are three dark spots which look like two eyes and a beak when seen from a distance. Click here to see what they look like

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/megankhines/4670760310/>

These three dark markings are called eye spots and they help prevent kestrels from becoming another animal's dinner. They do this by creating the illusion that the kestrel can see the predator which causes the predator to move on to find a less alert victim.

Video – Are You Looking at Me?

Now click on the link below to see a video of a kestrel and his eye spots.

<http://macaulaylibrary.org/video/439899>

