



## Quick Facts about Golden Eagles

- May have up to eight-foot wingspan and weigh up to 13 pounds in the wild – more in captivity
- Typically mates for life, and may live 30 years in the wild and more than 40 years in captivity
- The most powerful aerial predator in North America, typically preying on rabbit-sized prey, but capable of killing animals as large as pronghorn and mule deer; is trained by elite falconers to kill deer, foxes, and even wolves in some parts of the world
- Distributed widely throughout the northern hemisphere; in North America most commonly encountered in open habitats of the West; declining in some areas due to habitat loss, and species of concern in some areas due to expanding energy development; has declined greatly in Central Europe, and more populated areas of its former range
- Considered sacred in many Native American Cultures – especially Plains Indian Cultures; regarded as messenger to the Gods
- Also held in great esteem by many European and other cultures as a symbol of power, strength, and majesty . . . adorns the national flag or coat of arms of many nations, and is the most common national animal in the world, with five nations – Mexico, Albania, Germany, Austria, and Kazakhstan – making it the national animal

