

CLASSROOM STUDIES

The following activities have been designed for use in the classroom. They cover various concepts in the biology and ecology of peregrine falcons, raptors in general, as well as exercise in math, science, geography and writing. They were designed to be adaptable to a broad range of age levels, and many of the activities or follow-up questions can easily be modified to meet specific objectives. Students can use this website, or links provided on this site, to obtain detailed information on peregrine falcons as an aid in completing the activities. Format includes an introduction followed by the activities and a series of follow-up questions.

AMELIA'S AERIE

Introduction

Throughout North America, falcons nest on tall buildings and bridges. These structures are similar to their natural nesting habitat of cliffs and ledges. Amelia and her mate nest each year on a ledge along the 21st floor of the Traveler's Tower. This location, like a cliff ledge, provides safety from many predators, a great view of the surrounding environment that enables the adults to protect the nest and a great perch for hunting. A falcon nest is often referred to as an "aerie."

Amelia's Aerie

1. Provide each of your students with an 8.5" x 11" piece of blank paper, a pencil, a 12" ruler (has to have 1/4" markings), and a photograph of the Traveler's Tower (can be printed from the website).
2. Explain to the students that they are going to create a scale model of the Traveler's Tower and then locate Amelia's nest. Explain to them that the Tower has 34 floors and that in our model each floor is going to be 1/4" high. Show the students how to use the ruler to locate 1/4" and 1/2" increments.
3. Begin by having the students draw the base of the Tower by measuring 10 floors up from the bottom of the paper. Have them mark this and use their ruler to draw a 4" line across the paper from this point, finally using their ruler to connect the end of this line to the bottom of the paper creating a box (This level is the base of the Tower.)
4. Next have the students measure in 1/2" from each side on the top of the base, mark these spots and then count up 17 floors from the top of the base on each side from these points and mark these new points. Then have them draw lines from these points to the base. Finally have them connect the two points at the top of the new level. (This level ends in an observation area.)
5. Once again have the students measure 1/2" in from each side on the top of this new level and mark these points. Then have them measure up 7 floors on each side from these points and mark these new points. Then have them draw lines from these points to the level below. Finally have them connect the two points at the top of the new level. (This level ends at the cupola.)

6. Once again have the students measure $1/2$ " in from each side on the top of this new level and mark these points and then count up 2 floors from these points and mark new points. Then have them draw lines from these points to the level below. Finally have them connect the two points at the top of the new level. (This level is the beacon light.)
7. Next have the students draw a triangle $1\ 1/2$ " on each side on the top of this last level to complete the tower.
8. Now have the students place their ruler alongside their tower and locate the 21st floor and have them mark this spot on the tower. This is the location of Amelia's nest box.

Have your students answer the following:

- How many inches up the tower is the falcon's nest box on your drawing?
- If each floor at the Traveler's Tower is 15.5 feet high, how high is Amelia's nest from the sidewalk?
- Traveler's Tower has 34 floors (not including the cupola and beacon.) How tall is the Tower?
- Why do you think the 21st floor of the tower is a good nest site for the falcons?