

## **Peregrine Falcon Fill-in the Blanks Activity**

### **Part I**

#### *The Peregrine Falcon, A Powerful Yet Vulnerable Bird*

Use the words below to fill in the blanks.

hallux  
raptors  
stoop talons  
DDT  
environment species  
insecticide  
food chain biomagnification  
extinction

Peregrine falcons are considered to be the fastest animal on earth. Their high flight speeds are part of the technique they use to capture prey. Falcons belong to a group of birds called \_\_\_\_\_. The presence of a sharp beak and \_\_\_\_\_ are what identifies a predatory bird as a Raptor. The talons are used to grab and hold on to prey. As the falcon grasps its prey it uses its \_\_\_\_\_ or hind toe to slash it. The falcon diet consists mainly of smaller birds. They eat about 0.25 pounds (80 to 100 grams) of food per day. To capture prey a falcon flies high into the sky then folds its wings and drops from above in a dive known as a \_\_\_\_\_. Falcons typically fly about 60 miles per hour (100 kilometers per hour) but stooping speeds can reach 200 miles per hour (340 kilometers per hour).

The flight speed of the peregrine falcon makes it seem to be a powerful \_\_\_\_\_. However, it, like any other living organism, is vulnerable to changes in the \_\_\_\_\_. When a species cannot change in response to its environment \_\_\_\_\_ can occur. A chemical known as DDT nearly caused the peregrine falcon to become extinct in North America.

DDT was used as an \_\_\_\_\_ in the 1940's. It was sprayed on crops to stop insects from eating plants. At the bottom of the food chain several insects dusted with DDT may have been eaten by several small birds. Then, the small birds may have been eaten by a peregrine falcon. The amount of DDT in all of the small birds and all of the insects would eventually accumulate in the falcon. This is a process known as \_\_\_\_\_. The chemical greatly affected the peregrine falcon because it is at the top of the \_\_\_\_\_.