

## 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.

### GRAPHING SIZE

#### Introduction

In most species of birds the male is larger than the female. However in the case of raptors, including falcons, the female is larger than the male. In fact, female falcons are on average one-third larger than males. Biologists believe that this size difference might allow females to capture larger prey.

#### Graphing Size

Have your students graph and analyze the information in the following table to deduce size differences among adult peregrine falcons.

Body Length (inches)	Sex
18.0	Male
16.0	Male
18.7	Female
18.8	Female
15.5	Male
20.1	Female
16.5	Male
18.3	Male
19.3	Female
19.5	Female

#### Have your students answer the following:

- What can you determine based on your graph comparing the size of male vs. female peregrine falcons?
- What was the average size of males? Females? Approximately how much larger were females?
- What other types of biological measurements might you take to back up these findings?
- What advantages might being larger have for female falcons?
- In humans, are adult males taller than females? (This can be turned into an extension activity by asking the students to get the height of their parents and have the class compile and analyze the data the following day.)