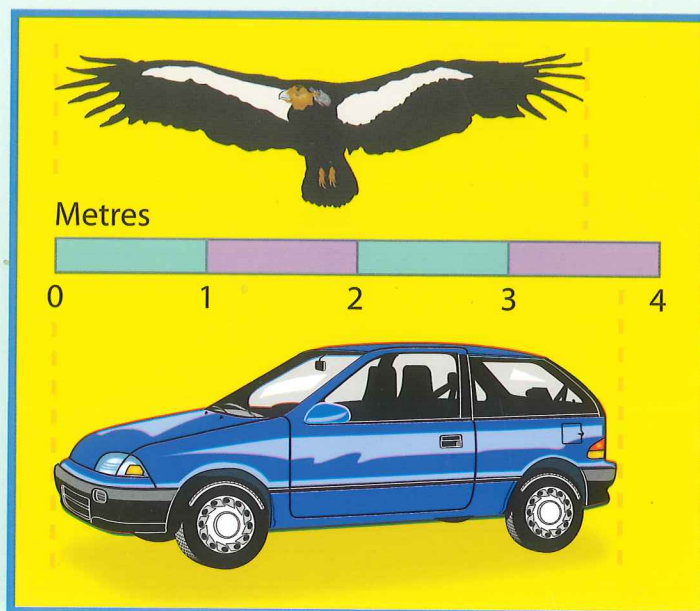




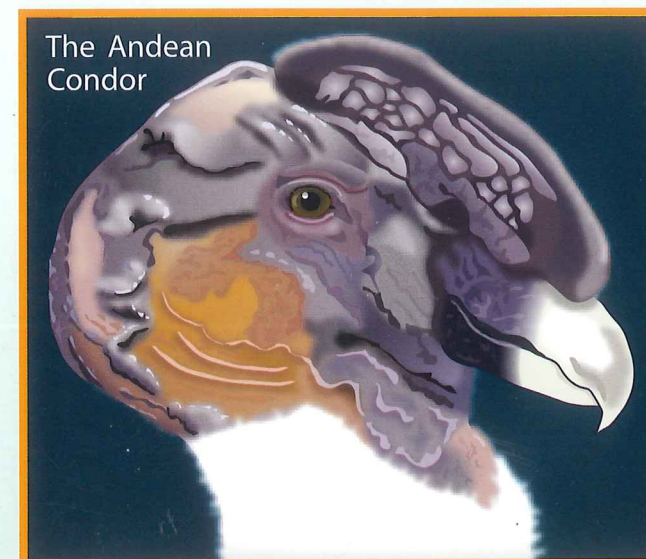
## FLYING GIANTS

- 1 The condor is one of the world's largest flying birds. It is in the vulture family.

Adult condors weigh up to 15kg, which is about as heavy as a medium-sized dog. An adult condor's body is around 140 cm long. A bird of this size needs very big wings to help it fly. The condor's wingspan can grow to an amazing 3.5 metres. This is nearly as long as a small car.



- 2 A condor is not cute. It has a long, hooded beak that sticks out from a flat forehead. It is bald and has yellow or orange skin on its head. Black feathers cover the rest of the condor, with a white frill around its neck. The inside of its wings can sometimes have white feathers. These birds can look very scary.

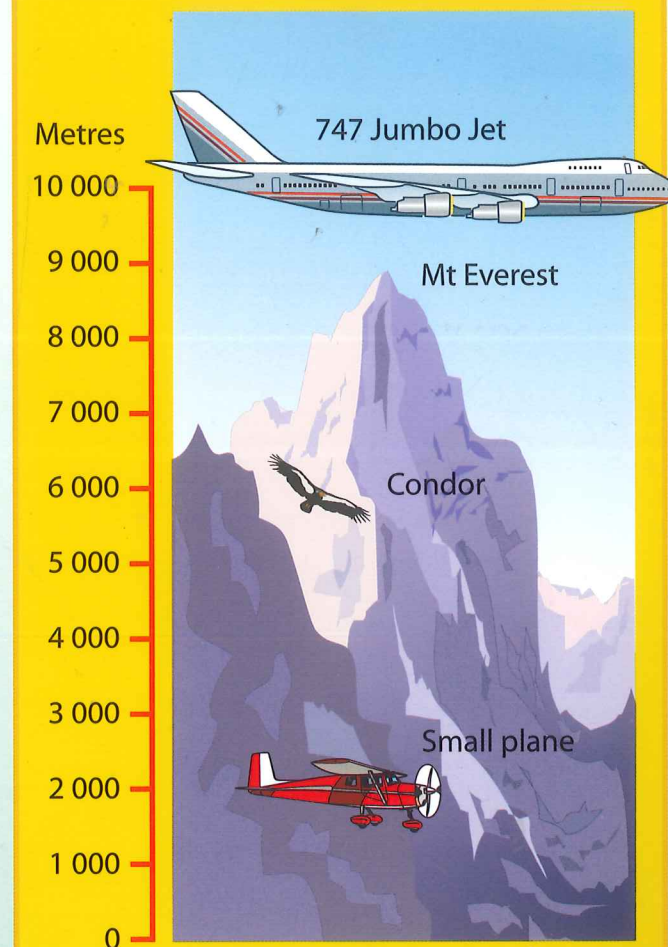


- 3 Like other vultures, condors feed on animals that are already dead. Condors eat cows, coyotes, wolves and deer. While rare, condors sometimes attack live animals. A condor's beak is strong enough to rip through the tough skins of the animals it eats. Its head is bald so it is easy to clean after a messy meal. Condors can eat so much that they become too heavy to fly.

- 4 At about the age of five or six, condors begin to breed. The female will lay one large egg that is about 10 cm long. When hatched, the young condor is covered in fluffy grey down and it is six months before it can fly. The young condor lives with its parents until it can fend for itself at about two years of age.

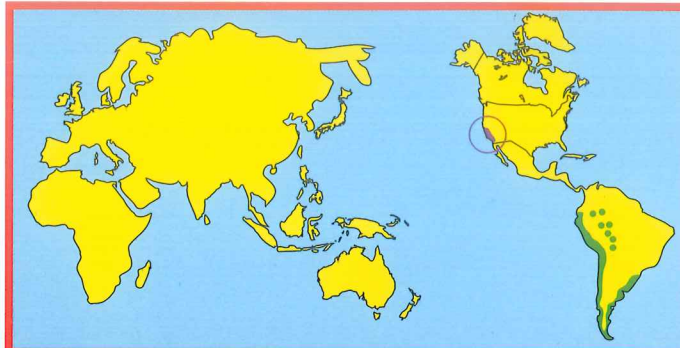
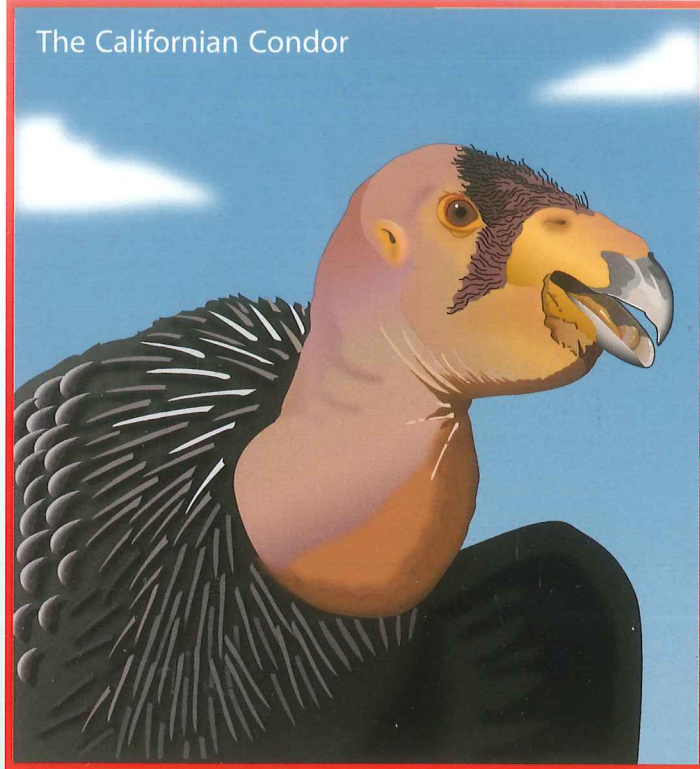
Condors are very good at flying, often covering many kilometres each day in search of food. They can soar to a height of 6000 metres.

## Altitude Comparisons



- 5 There are two types of condors. South America is home to the first kind, called the Andean condor. The other type, the Californian condor, lives in the western United States. Both types of condor nest in caves or cliffs high up in the mountains.

The Californian Condor



### Habitat of the Condor

- Andean Condor
- Californian Condor

6 Sadly, condors have almost been wiped out by hunting and the destruction of their homes. Now, only a few condors live in the wild. The rest live in zoos, where they are taught how to survive and breed. It will still be a long time before condors are safe from extinction.

## Questions

- 1 Adult condors are as
  - a long as a medium-sized dog.
  - b wide as a medium-sized dog.
  - c heavy as a medium-sized dog.
- 2 What colour is a condor's frill?
  - a white
  - b black
  - c yellow
- 3 How long is it before a young condor can fly?
  - a five years
  - b two years
  - c six months
- 4 The Andean condor
  - a is found in western United States.
  - b is found in South America.
  - c lives in California.
- 5 Why are condors bald?
  - a to help them fly faster
  - b to help them bite through flesh
  - c so it's easier to clean after eating
- 6 What sort of industry would most likely destroy a condor's home?
  - a mining in the mountains
  - b logging a forest
  - c building a dam

## Vocabulary

Match the words from the text to the clues.

bald search extinction rare hatched

- 7 Came out of an egg (4)
- 8 Something that is not common (3)
- 9 Having no hair (2)
- 10 To look for something (4)
- 11 The death of all animals in a species (6)

## Grammar

**Homophones** are words that sound the same but are spelt differently. E.g. **to, too** and **two**. Write the correct **homophone** in the sentences below.

- 12 Condors can eat **so/sew** much.
- 13 They can **soar/saw** to a height of 6000 metres.
- 14 The condor is **won/one** of the world's largest flying birds.
- 15 Until it can fend for itself at about **too/two** years of age.

## Back To The Text...

- 16 The illustrator shows a condor flying higher than
  - a Mt Everest.
  - b a small plane.
- 17 Another good name for this text would be:
  - a Feathered Monsters
  - b Cute Condors

- 18 You are more likely to see a condor
  - a in a zoo.
  - b in the wild.

## Cloze

### The Albatross

Choose from the following words to complete this cloze passage.

thousands lay  
biggest wings around

The Great Albatross is one of the 19 birds in the world. It is a seabird that can glide for 20 of kilometres. They do this by using their huge 21 to ride the winds and thus save energy. Some albatross are known to glide 22 the world. They like to eat fish and squid. When they mate they only 23 one egg each year.

## Challenge Option



Draw an image of your favourite bird