The Bald Eagle: America’s National Bird

The bald eagle is America’s national bird. It is the emblem, or symbol, that stands for America. The bald eagle was chosen to represent America on June 20, 1782. This was the date when the great seal of America was adopted.

The bald eagle was chosen as America’s emblem for many reasons. The eagle represents the spirit of freedom. It soars high above the mountains, living a life of freedom. It also stands for a long life. Wild bald eagles can live as long as thirty years. Once an eagle is paired with its mate, the pair will stay together until one of them dies. Pairs of eagles build nests out of sticks on the tops of very tall trees. The bald eagle has a majestic look as well. It is a big and powerful bird. It was named at a time when the word “bald” meant white or streaked with white. So, the bald eagle is not bald at all. Rather, the adult eagle’s head is covered with white feathers. Its tail is also white. The bald eagle’s body and wings are dark brown and its eyes, beak, and feet are yellow. The bald eagle was also selected as America’s symbol because it is the only eagle confined to the North American continent.

One story suggests that during one of the first battles of the Revolutionary War, bald eagles were circling above the fighting men. The eagles were making shrieking cries. The patriots thought that the eagles were encouraging them by crying for freedom!