



## Bald Eagles

**1** The image of the bald eagle is part of the Great Seal of the United States. These birds have been the national symbol of the United States since 1782. There are over 60 types of species of bald eagles. Bald eagles have a lifespan of 35 years in the wild. They can be found in North American forests. Female bald eagles can be up to 37 inches long, while a male bald eagle's body can be up to 34 inches long.



**2** These types of birds build nests for their babies. The nests are so heavy that they can weigh a ton! Nests are built using twigs, grass, and sticks. Bald eagles protect their nests by building them high up in trees. They find the tallest trees and build nests on the very top. This makes it hard for predators to find and attack their babies.

**3** The baby eagles are also known as eaglets. Eaglets are born a very light color. The babies are born gray, and as time goes by, they turn brown. Once the babies are around five years old, they develop their normal white heads and tails.

**4** When bald eagles fly, their wings can expand up to 90 inches wide. They can soar over 10,000 feet high in the sky. Since they are up so high, their great eyesight helps them see fish up to a mile away. When bald eagles attack, they drop down from the sky at 100 miles an hour.

*"Bald Eagles" written for educational purposes.*



## Flamingos



**5** Flamingos are well known for their long tall legs and an s-shaped neck. There are six different species of flamingos in the world. Flamingos are mostly found in areas of Africa and southern Europe. They live in areas that are full of lagoons and shallow lakes. Flamingos have a lifespan of up to 30 years. In captivity, their lifespan may increase to 50 years. Flamingos may look tall in size, but their weight is very light. The heaviest a flamingo can weigh is up to eight pounds.

**6** Flamingos have very long and skinny legs. Their legs can be longer than their entire body. When a flamingo bends its leg backward, the actual part of the leg that bends is the ankle. The knee of this bird is not visible to the naked eye. Flamingos stand on one leg to conserve body heat.

**7** When a flamingo eats, it holds its long curved beak upside down in the water. They use their beaks like long shovels. The bird sucks in the muddy water through their beaks. Dinner for a flamingo includes shrimp, snails, and algae.

**8** Flamingos build nests that are made of mud mounds. These nests for their babies are built along waterways. At the very top of a mud mound, they create a shallow hole for one bird egg. The mother bird lays one egg in the mud mound. Together the mother and father flamingo take care of the egg. The parents take turns sitting on top of the egg until it hatches. Finally, after about 30 days, the egg hatches.

*"Flamingos" written for educational purposes.*



## Servicemen to Our Country

**1** There are many important men in our history. One of these groups is the Buffalo Soldiers. After the Civil War, the U.S. formed a group of Black soldiers. Times were still hard for Black people, and it was hard to find education, work, and shelter.

**2** The 10th Cavalry were the original Buffalo Soldiers. They were not treated the same as White soldiers. They faced tough challenges, but they were very good workers.

**3** Buffalo Soldiers got their name from their hair. The curly black hair was much like the buffalo. All Black soldiers were called Buffalo Soldiers.

**4** This group had many duties and jobs. Despite the racism they faced by their own U.S. Army men, they stayed strong. Many of them had jobs as some of the first national park rangers. They also built roads for the U.S. Postal Service. These soldiers also protected wildlife by stopping hunters.

**5** Many Buffalo Soldiers earned awards. These included the highest honor of a U.S. Soldier, the Medal of Honor.

**6** None of the original Buffalo Soldiers are still living today. There is a Buffalo Soldiers National Museum in Houston. They are remembered as brave men. They are an important part of our country's history.

*"Servicemen to Our Country" written for educational purposes.*



## Code Talkers

**7** World War II started in 1942. One amazing group of soldiers were named “code talkers.” These soldiers were very smart. They used languages and codes to send messages during the war.

**8** Secret codes were sent in many ways. Some were written in invisible ink. Some were even tattoos. Some codes had rules that used the alphabet like a puzzle. The soldiers would send the messages to communicate with each other without their enemy finding out their plans. Sometimes their codes would be broken by the enemy. This got many Americans killed.

**9** A Native American language was one of the best codes that soldiers used. The Navajo code was never broken. It was a spoken code language whose words related to the English language and its letters. Also, a list of Navajo words described jobs in the stories of their people.

**10** Code talkers used this code on radios. The soldiers used their language during battles, which saved many lives.

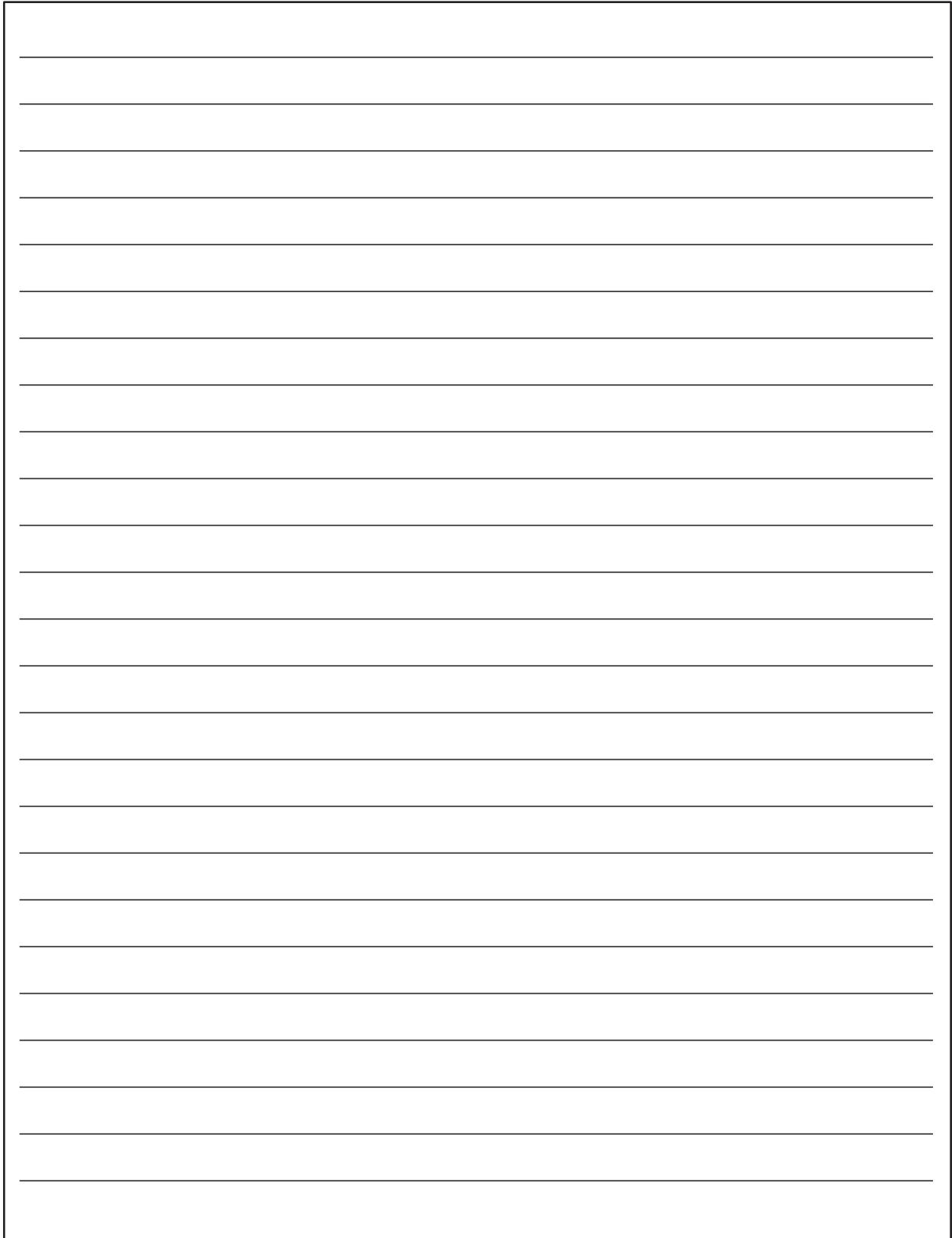
**11** Native American code talkers returned after the war. They faced discrimination and could not vote. In 1968, these brave men were honored. The world learned about the amazing work they did. The silence was broken. These code talkers received medals and are still honored today. They are definitely some of the smartest soldiers in American history.

*“Code Talkers” written for educational purposes.*

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

## PLANNING SHEET

Use this sheet to plan what you will write. The writing on this sheet will NOT be scored.

A large rectangular box with a black border, containing 25 horizontal lines for writing. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the box.

**This sheet will NOT be scored.**