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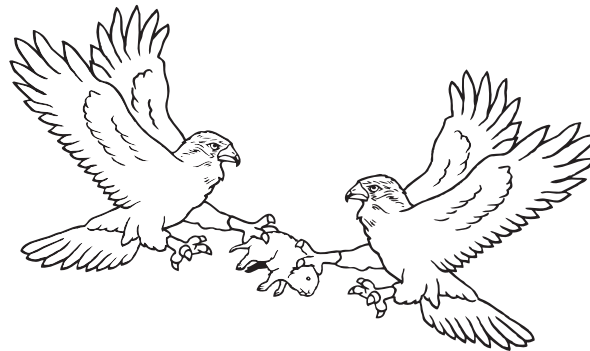
Three Heads, Four Wings, and Eight Legs



Ben told his friend that he had seen something bizarre, or very odd and unusual. The bizarre thing had three heads, four wings, and eight legs. It had once been alive. No one believed Ben. All of Ben's friends said it couldn't be true. Ben did not disagree or argue. Instead, he smiled and said, "I do not want to have an argument. Come with me, and you will see the thing with three heads, four wings, and eight legs."

Ben's friends followed Ben to a small museum. In the museum, Ben pointed up. There, hanging from the ceiling, was a thing with three heads, four wings, and eight legs. It was an exhibit, or display, that preserved a moment in time. When something is preserved, it is kept from spoiling or rotting. It is kept in the same condition.

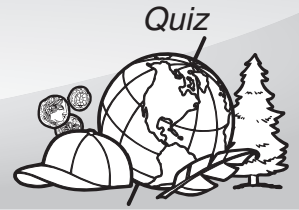
The story behind the exhibit went like this: Two red-tailed hawks were hunting. They were a male and female pair. The male hawk had caught a gopher, a small four-legged rodent. While in the air, the male hawk passed the gopher to his mate. Each hawk had one foot around the gopher—who was still alive—when something happened. The tip of the male hawk's wing brushed an electric wire. All three animals were instantly killed. They fell to the ground joined together.



Someone saw all this happen. The witness went into the field and found the animals. The witness then took the animals to the California State Department of Fish and Game. The animals were taken to a taxidermist. A taxidermist stuffs and mounts animals. The animals were stuffed and mounted exactly as they were found. They were mounted with the hawks' wings outspread in flight and with one foot of each hawk around the rodent.

Ben's friends looked at the exhibit hanging from the ceiling for a long time. There was no argument about what Ben had told them. It was an exhibit preserving a moment in time. It was an exhibit made up of three animals joined

Three Heads, Four Wings, Eight Legs



After reading the story, answer the questions.
Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

- This story is mainly about
 - Ben
 - a museum exhibit
 - what the witness saw
 - how red-tailed hawks hunt
- Who picked up the animals after they fell to the ground?
 - a witness
 - a taxidermist
 - a person from a museum
 - a person from the California State Department of Fish and Game
- Think about how the word *preserved* relates to *kept*. What words relate in the same way?

preserved : kept

 - brushed : wire
 - argued : caught
 - hanged : ceiling
 - displayed : shown
- From the story you can tell that
 - Ben never argued
 - red-tailed hawks hunt rodents
 - all museum exhibits are bizarre
 - electric wires are safe to touch
- What would be the most bizarre?
 - a black dog
 - a brown dog
 - a green dog
 - a white dog