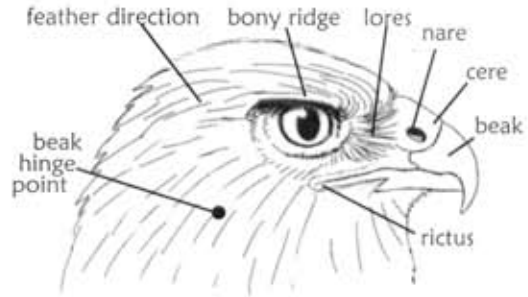


Raptor head templates

hawk skull



how skull fits outline



Much of a bird's skull is visible on the live bird – a great advantage to the artist. Within a raptor skull's eye cavity is a *sclerotic ring* which provides protection to the large eyeball as the bird hunts its prey in brushy circumstances or dives to meet its prey on the ground or in the air. A hard flange projects over the eye, also for protection and to shade the eye for better vision. Raptor beaks have a saddle-shaped cover at the base of the beak called the *cere*. Some raptors have a small knob inside the nostril opening to break the airstream during a dive and prevent a vacuum.



draw this eye in box A above



now draw it in the space above



draw the hawk's head in box C above



draw this beak in box B above

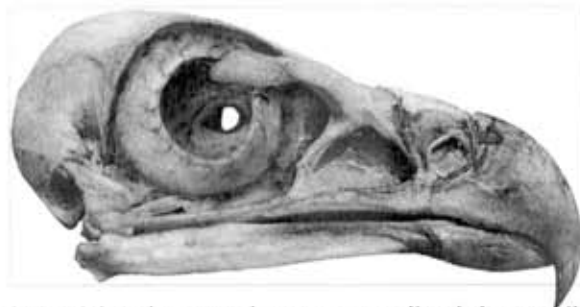


now draw it in the space above

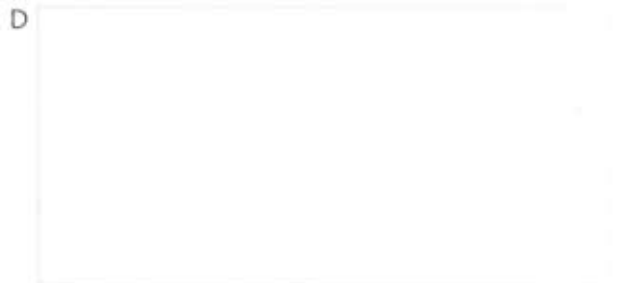


now draw the hawk's head in the space above

Below is an eagle skull. Using templates created while drawing the hawk, can you make a reasonably good sketch of the eagle without an actual reference?



Try to draw an eagle head (not just a skull) in box D below using your new hawk template and the skull at left for reference. Its feathers will extend beyond the box edge at left (see hawk above).



Memorizing how to draw a generalized shape will create templates in your brain which you can access any time you want to draw later on. Practicing will help you remember them. As you sketch a new model, your template guides your pencil, but you can make adjustments to the template to match what you are seeing as you draw. This jump-starts a drawing, giving you a more accurate picture since you know what you are drawing. Even if you can't clearly see something as you sketch, you know from having carefully created the template what should be there. However, make sure to observe carefully so that you make corrections to the template as they are needed – and that you don't draw something incorrectly just because it was "in the template."