Name _____

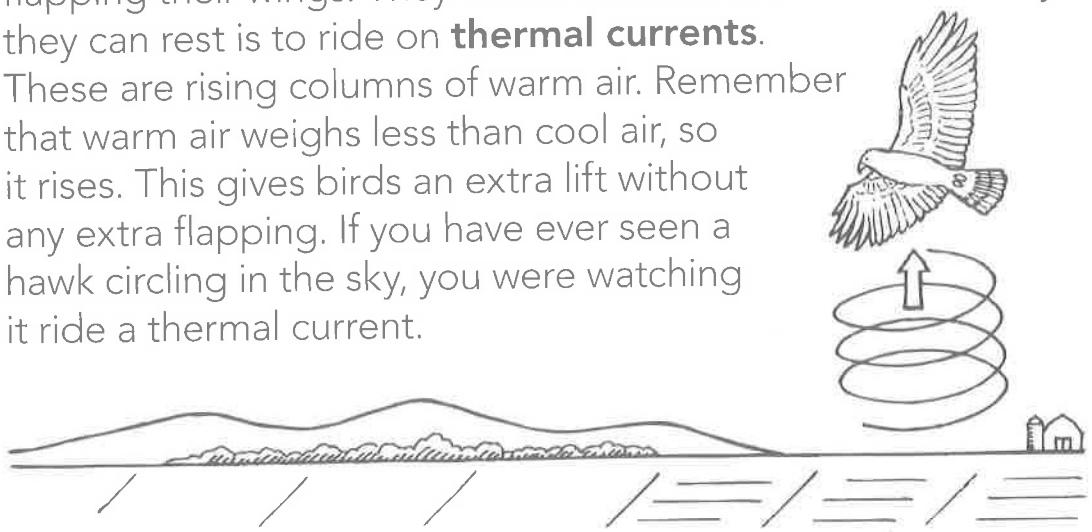
Daily Science
Big Idea 4
WEEK 4

Day 3

Weekly Question

How do birds fly?

When birds are flying, they can't spend the whole time flapping their wings. They would become too tired! One way they can rest is to ride on **thermal currents**. These are rising columns of warm air. Remember that warm air weighs less than cool air, so it rises. This gives birds an extra lift without any extra flapping. If you have ever seen a hawk circling in the sky, you were watching it ride a thermal current.



Vocabulary

thermal current
a column of warm, rising air

A. Write **true** or **false**.

1. A thermal current is a current of warm air. _____
2. Birds flap more when they ride thermal currents. _____
3. A hawk will gain lift when it is riding on a thermal current. _____
4. Using thermal currents is a good way for hawks to save energy. _____

B. Gliders are like airplanes but with no engines. They can fly, but they can remain in the air only for a short time. How do you think they stay in the air? Explain your answer.

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