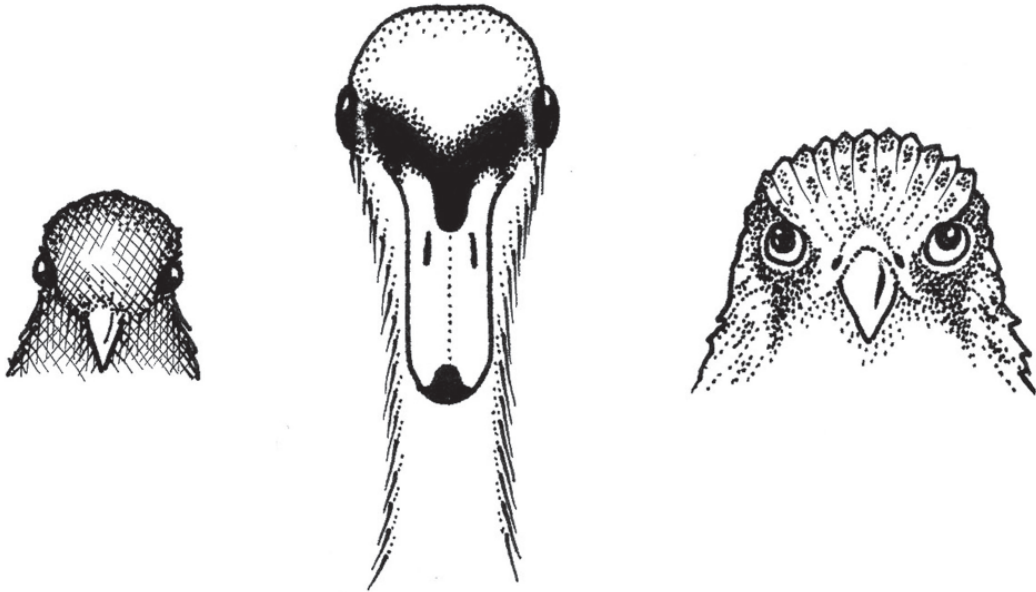


Experiment

How do kestrels see so well? Unlike swans and blackbirds, kestrels have **binocular vision**.



Birds like swans and blackbirds see out of each eye independently. You can try this by holding up a finger and looking at it with one eye at a time. This is fine for most things but when you have to pounce on something and catch it, you have to know exactly where it is. So you need to be able to focus on it with both eyes at the same time – which is what binocular vision means.

Line up your finger with a line drawn by your teacher on the board. You can only do this with one eye at a time. Using your two eyes together you can only focus either on your finger or on the line on the board – not both at the same time.

Kestrels, like all birds of prey and owls, use both eyes together and are very good at catching fast-moving prey.

Swans use each eye independently at the same time. This gives them an advantage which is very important to them. Can you work out what it is?
