

2020 Animal Olympics



American Alligators can walk, run, or crawl. They use a “high walk” by keeping their legs directly beneath them. To increase speed the diagonally opposite limbs move forward almost simultaneously. Alligators can run in short bursts of speed at 30 mph – that is 40 feet in 2 seconds!

Challenge: Get down on all fours, with your arms and legs directly under your body and walk like an American Alligator. How fast can you travel?

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Owls, especially this Great Horned Owl would win a GOLD medal for sure if there was a staring competition in the Olympic games. Owls have the ability to stare for hours without blinking!

Challenge: Find a buddy or your favorite adult and record how long you can stare without blinking.

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The GOLD Medal for the High Jump goes to the White-tailed Deer!
White-tailed deer have been recorded jumping over 8 ft. in a single leap! Wow!
How high can you jump?

Challenge: How high can you jump in a single jump?

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Peregrine Falcons win the GOLD medal for FASTEST Raptor. Recorded at air speeds of over 200 mph, these birds do epic dives and aerial maneuvers in pursuit of their prey. What an amazing bird!

Challenge: How fast can you dive in a pool or lake to catch your prey (weighted dive stick)?

*Peregrine Falcons do not dive for fish. Do you know which Louisiana bird of prey does?

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The SILVER medal for the LONG JUMP goes to the Bobcat. Bobcats are stealthy hunters— slowly and quietly stalking their prey, before they pounce!

A bobcat can leap over 10 ft.

The GOLD medal goes to the Florida Panther (Mountain Lion) which can leap over 20 feet – wow!

Challenge: How far can you jump in a single leap?

Make the challenge even more difficult – crouch down like a bobcat ready to pounce and see how far you can jump. Next, try a running pounce – which jump was the longest?

