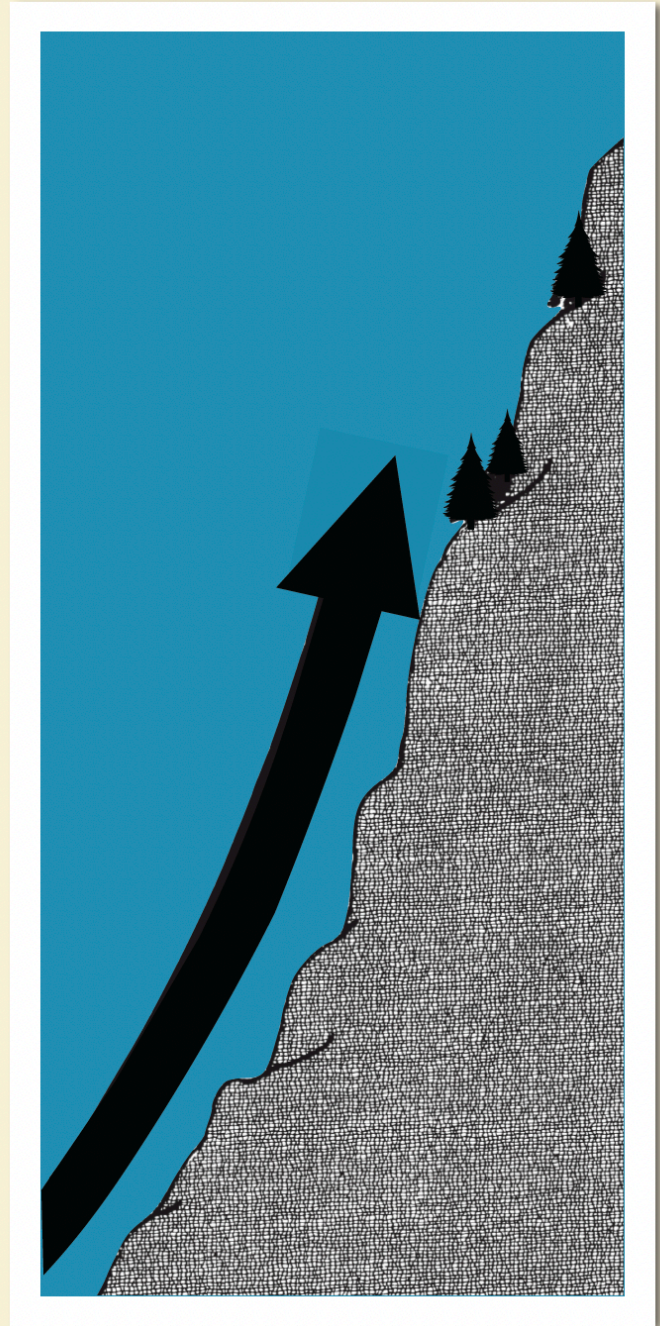


## How Eagles Soar

Have you ever seen an eagle soaring effortlessly through the sky? What gives the bird the ability to fly without flapping its wings?

The reason these broad-winged birds seem to float is because they are riding on a **stream of moving air called a thermal**. Thermals occur in two ways: First, because warm air rises and the sun heats air unevenly, the **warmer air forms a column that spirals upward**. Second, **when wind hits a barrier like a cliff or a wall of trees, it is forced upward**. In both cases, the thermal provides a free ride for the eagle.



When wind hits a barrier like a cliff or a wall of trees, it is forced upward.