

# Animals of the World: Birds



## THE OWL



Owls are nocturnal birds that detect their prey in the dark with its keen, adapted hearing and sight. They stay up all night and sleep during the day.

Owls fall into two categories: typical owls and barn owls. Both belong to the same family of birds, but typical owls have feathers on their heads that look like ears. Barn owls do not have these characteristic feathers.

Owls are found almost anywhere in the world, except in extremely cold climates, such as Antarctica. The habitat where they live in large numbers is in forests.

During the night, owls hunt small prey, such as rodents, snakes, or insects. After they capture their prey, they carry it in their claws to a safe place and eat it. It takes 10 hours for owls to digest its prey. They regurgitate bones, skin, and other parts that they can't digest.

Generally, owls live in the same place throughout their lives. They do not migrate in the winter.

Although some owls are small and have a delicate appearance, they are all strong and fast birds. During the night, they silently fly over the forests to catch their prey by surprise. Also, its small beak is versatile to dominate and defend against any predator.



In the spring, the male calls the female to mate by singing a special song. Females lay between 2 and 3 eggs. They do not build their own nests but use nests abandoned by other birds. The female stays to incubate the eggs while the male looks for food.

An interesting characteristic of owls is that they can turn their heads 270 degrees, so it seems that they almost rotate their neck completely. Since owls can't move their eyes, they must turn their necks.

For many people and societies, owls are a symbol of wisdom. Maybe it's because they have a penetrating look and a strong presence.

There are many species of owls all over the world. The colors of owls go from white to dark brown and all different sizes depending on the species. For example, the Snowy Owl has a totally white plumage with gray spots and lives in Alaska.

Another familiar owl is the eagle owl, which lives in Europe, Russia, Pakistan, China, and Korea. It is large, about 70 centimeters tall. It has large claws and beak, but its most notable feature is its orange eyes.

The masked owl has an interesting appearance; it looks like it is wearing a mask. Its body is light brown, and its mask is cream-colored. The masked owl lives in Australia and New Guinea.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## THE OWL

Answer the questions.

1. Owls are \_\_\_\_\_

- a. daytime animals with ears and very developed touch.
- b. animals whose smell and hearing are poorly developed.
- c. animals that prefer to hunt actively at night.
- d. unintelligent animals.



2. The difference between typical owls and barn owls is \_\_\_\_

- a. they have a different behavior when hunting.
- b. they live in very different land areas.
- c. they have feathers of different colors and shapes.
- d. there's no difference.

3. Its beak is versatile to dominate and defend against any predator.

- a. True
- b. False

4. According to the text, owls live \_\_\_\_\_

- a. almost everywhere in the world except extremely cold places.
- b. in very hot places and desert areas.
- c. near rivers and lakes.
- d. in extremely cold places, like Antarctica.

5. What does regurgitate mean in the text?

- a. play
- b. vomit
- c. saves
- d. cold



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

6. After reading the text, select the owl's meal menu.

- a. rodents, snakes, and bears
- b. rats, insects, and snakes
- c. lions, mice, and insects
- d. rodents, elephants, and insects



7. When do the owls mate?

- a. in autumn
- b. in winter
- c. in summer
- d. in spring

8. Owls live in nests that are \_\_\_\_\_

- a. built by females, who bring sticks and branches.
- b. abandoned by other birds and they reuse.
- c. used as a warehouse to leave your food.
- d. small, so that only one egg fits per family.

9. Owls are unique animals. Circle the true sentences.

- a. They can turn their heads 240 degrees, making it appear that they almost rotate their neck completely.
- b. For many societies and people, owls are a symbol of wisdom.
- c. They have a very large beak to catch heavy animals.
- d. They use surprise hunting to capture their prey.

10. Although there are many species, they all have the same color plumage.

- a. True
- b. False