



## Owls

**Aims:** To understand that animals are adapted to their habitats and lifestyle

**KEYSTAGE 1:** Science 2: 1c, 2g, 4b, 5a

Owls are a fantastic example of successful adaptation to nocturnal life. It may even be possible to visit a sanctuary or ask them to bring a live owl into school. Alternatively you may be able to borrow a stuffed owl from one of the contacts in the directory section of this schools pack.

Pick out some of the features of the owl which make it well adapted to its lifestyle. These include its sharp talons for catching prey and its large eyes for seeing in the dark.

### Owl Pellets

Owls are unable to digest the bones and fur of animals they have eaten and as a result they cough them up as pellets. If you can get hold of some owl pellets these can be great fun to dissect as they will allow you to work out what the owl has eaten. Examples of things you might find are rodent skulls, butterfly wings, beetle cases, fur and bones.

### Find out which of these creatures are active at night and circle them:

Animals which are active at night are said to be nocturnal. Animals active in the day time are said to be diurnal.

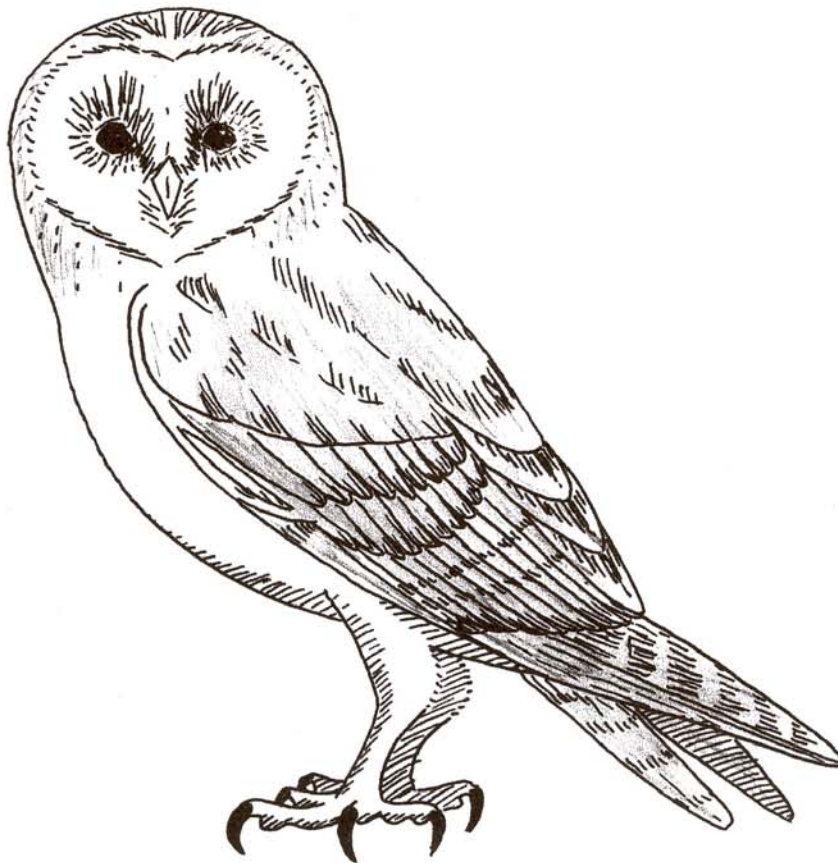
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|------------------|--|
| <b>Bat</b>       | These mammals have filled the night time niche of birds, hunting winged insects with very little competition.                                |
| <b>Mouse</b>     | These small mammals are active at night in order to avoid predators such as hawks. However, at night they are still at risk from owls.       |
| <b>Fox</b>       | Active mostly at night, hunting mammals, slugs and snails, frogs and scavenging from human waste.  |
| <b>Slug</b>      | Active at night to avoid higher temperatures and moisture loss.  |
| <b>Blackbird</b> | Active during the day  |
| <b>Toad</b>      | Active at night for the same reasons as slugs but also because this is the time at which it is easiest to find its food of slugs and snails. |
| <b>Butterfly</b> | Active during the day  |
| <b>Moth</b>      | Many moths are the night time equivalent of butterflies. They feed on night flowering and scented plants.                                    |



## Owls

**Colour in this picture of an owl.**

**Label:** eyes, ears, feet, claws, beak, soft wings



**Read this list of animals.**

Draw circles around the ones that you think are more active at night than during the day.

Bat

Mouse

Fox

Slug

Blackbird

Toad

Butterfly

Moth