

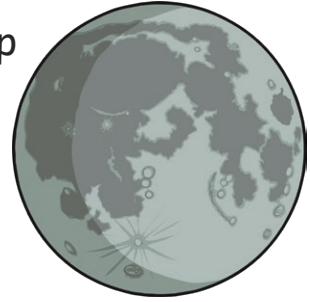
# Nocturnal Animals

## What Is a Nocturnal Animal?

Nocturnal animals stay awake at night and sleep in the day.

Some nocturnal animals can be seen during the evening, just before night time. Others spend the whole day sleeping.

Most nocturnal animals can hear really well and have special eyes that can help them to see really well in the dark.



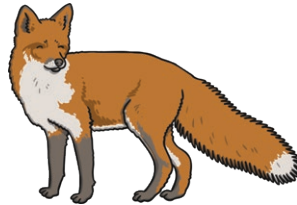
bat



hedgehog



badger



fox



owl



## Did You Know?

Owls have very big eyes compared to the size of their bodies. This is what helps them to see so well in the dark.

# Questions

1. When do nocturnal animals sleep? Tick one.
  - in the day
  - at night
  - in the day and at night
2. What can most nocturnal animals do? Tick one.
  - fly really high
  - dig really fast
  - hear really well
3. What helps nocturnal animals to see really well in the dark? Tick one.
  - special eyes
  - special noses
  - special fur
4. Which of these is a nocturnal animal? Tick one.
  - horse
  - fox
  - duck
5. What is special about an owl's eyes? Tick one.
  - they're very big
  - they're very small
  - they're very round

# Answers

1. When do nocturnal animals sleep? Tick one.

- in the day**
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# Nocturnal Animals

## What Is a Nocturnal Animal?

Nocturnal animals are mostly awake at night and rest during the day. Many of them have a very good sense of smell and good hearing. They also have special eyes to help them see well in the dark.



## Seeing in the Dark



Some animals, like cats, have eyes that can see well in the day and at night. Many people think that bats are blind but they can actually see almost as well as humans. However, at night, their ears are more important to helping them know where they are flying. Owls have very large eyes compared to the size of their bodies to help them see well in the dark.

## Nocturnal Animals in the UK

In the UK, there are a few nocturnal animals. These include badgers, foxes, owls, bats and hedgehogs. Nocturnal animals can be found in many places, including towns, woodlands and fields.



### Did You Know?

If you listen carefully at night, you might be able to hear some nocturnal animals!

# Questions

1. What do nocturnal animals do during the day? Tick one.

- they hunt
- they rest
- they swim

2. What do many people think about bats? Tick one.

- that they like bananas
- that they like to sleep
- that they are blind

3. Name two nocturnal animals.

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4. Draw a line to match up the boxes to complete the sentences.

In the UK, there are

to help them see well in the dark.

They also have special eyes

a few nocturnal animals.

Foxes, bats and owls can

usually be heard at night.

5. Complete this sentence.

Owls have very large \_\_\_\_\_ compared to the size of their bodies.

noses

heads

eyes

# Answers

1. What do nocturnal animals do during the day? Tick one.

- they hunt
- they rest**
- they swim

2. What do many people think about bats? Tick one.

- that they like bananas
- that they like to sleep
- that they are blind**

3. Name two nocturnal animals.

**Any two from the following: badgers, foxes, owls, bats and hedgehogs.**

4. Draw a line to match up the boxes to complete the sentences.

In the UK, there are		to help them see well in the dark.
They also have special eyes		a few nocturnal animals.
Foxes, bats and owls can		usually be heard at night.

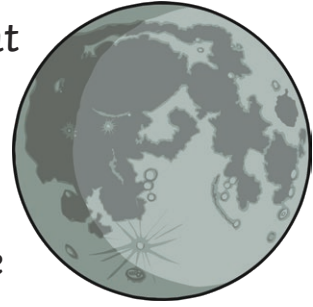
5. Complete this sentence.

Owls have very large **eyes** compared to the size of their bodies.

# Nocturnal Animals

## What Is a Nocturnal Animal?

Nocturnal animals are mostly active at night and sleep during the day. Many of them have an excellent sense of smell and very good hearing. Some nocturnal animals also have special eyesight. These extra strong senses make it easier for them to hunt, but it also means they can see predators more easily. Animals that are active during the day and sleep at night are called diurnal.



## Seeing in the Dark



Some animals, like cats, have eyes that adapt to seeing in both the day and night. However, many nocturnal animals have specially adapted eyes.

Many people think that bats are blind but they can actually see almost as well as humans.

However, at night, their hearing is more important to them. This is because bats use a special sense called echolocation to help them navigate at night. The bats make sounds and when the sound hits an object, it makes an echo. Bats then use this to judge how close they are to things. Owls have very large eyes compared to the size of their bodies which helps them to see well in the dark.

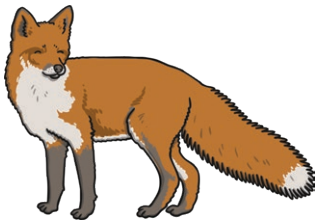
## Nocturnal Animals in the UK

In the UK, nocturnal animals can be found in many places, including woodlands, towns, fields and parks. These animals include badgers, foxes, owls, bats and hedgehogs.





Some nocturnal animals are protected because there are too few of them in the wild. This means they are endangered. In the UK, hedgehogs are endangered. This is because their natural habitats are being destroyed by things such as pollution and construction work. It is important to look after natural habitats so that these animals can thrive.



### Did You Know?

A fox's hearing is so good they can hear animals digging underground! This can really help foxes to hunt for prey at night.



# Questions

1. What do **diurnal** animals do? Tick one.

- They are active at night and asleep in the day.
- They are active during the day and asleep at night.
- They are active during the day and at night.

2. Name three places nocturnal animals can be found in the UK.

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3. What word is used to describe the environment an animal lives in?

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4. Draw a line to match the word to its meaning.

navigate

become adjusted to  
certain conditions

adapt

guide or steer  
someone/something

predator

an animal that  
preys on others

5. In your own words, what does the word **nocturnal** mean?

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6. Do you think it is important to protect the habitats of endangered animals? Why?

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# Answers

1. What do **diurnal** animals do? Tick one.

- They are active at night and asleep in the day.
- They are active during the day and asleep at night.**
- They are active during the day and at night.

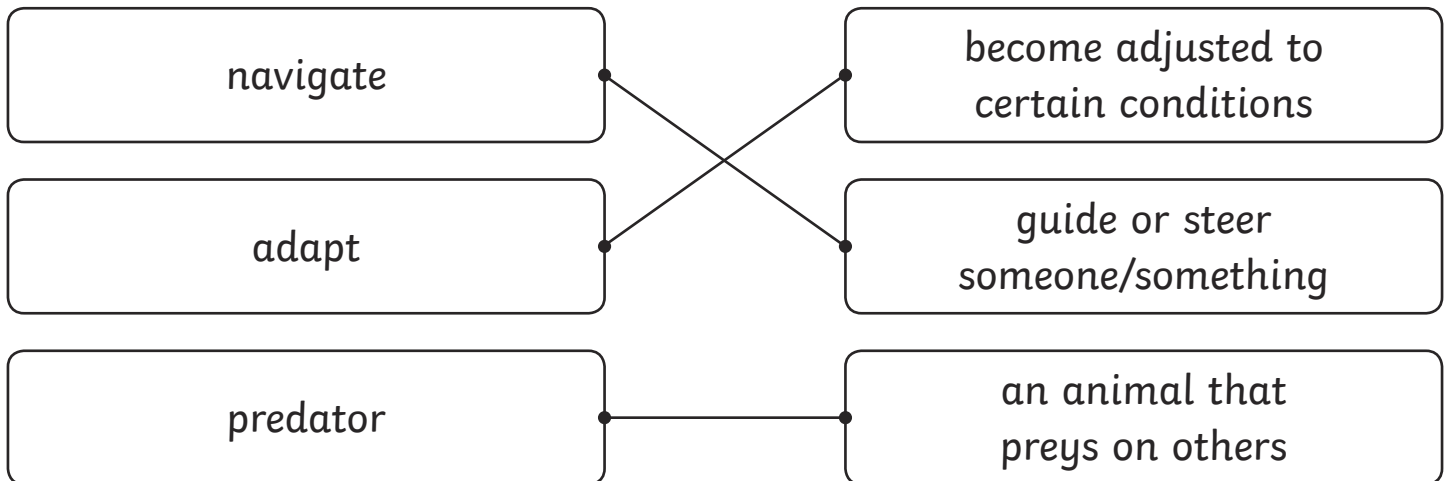
2. Name three places nocturnal animals can be found in the UK.

**Any three from the following: woodlands, towns, fields, parks.**

3. What word is used to describe the environment an animal lives in?

**habitat**

4. Draw a line to match the word to its meaning.



5. In your own words, what does the word **nocturnal** mean?

**In children's own words. Answer should relate to animals being active/awake at night and asleep/resting during the day.**

6. Do you think it is important to protect the habitats of endangered animals? Why?

**Children's own answers.**