

Owl factsheets



Owls are nocturnal hunters with eyes that face forwards.



A white owl that lives in the North American tundra.



A nocturnal hunter from the Pacific coast of North America.

All About Owls

There are about 162 different species of owls alive today. They live in lots of different places from **rainforests** to the snowy tundra.

Head

Owls have a large head and large eyes that face forwards (unlike most other birds, whose eyes are on the sides of their head). This gives them very good eyesight. Owls cannot move their eyes like we can. They have to move their entire head to look around.

Prey and hunting

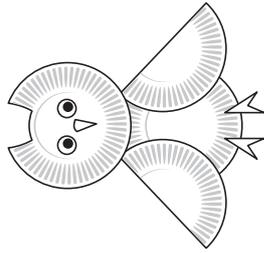
Owls sleep during the day and come out at night to hunt mice and other small animals (their **prey**).

They use their excellent sense of sight to find prey in the dark. They have very good hearing which also helps them to hunt. Owls can easily sneak up on their prey because their fluffy feathers give them almost silent flight. Some owls have tufts of feathers above their ears. These make it harder for the animals they hunt to see them.

Owls hunt in two ways:

- **Perch and pounce** – the owl waits on a low tree branch until it sees prey. Then the owl swoops down onto it. This is how owls that live in forests hunt.
 - **Quartering** – the owl flies low over the ground looking for prey. This is how owls hunt if they live in places without many trees.
- Owls hunt and eat mice and rats, insects, frogs and birds. No other bird or animal hunts owls. Owls eat smaller prey in one piece and larger prey in chunks. Their stomachs cannot digest some parts like hair and bone and they cough these up.

Owl craft



A cute owl made from three paper plates.

OWL CAM

See Northern Barred Owls on the web

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Name:

Date:

Read the text, then answer the questions.

1. How do you know this is a website?

2. How many different sorts of owls are there?

3. What do owls eat?

4. Why do owls fly so silently?

5. Find and copy **one** word that tells the reader that owls hunt at night.

6. What link would you click on to find out about how to make an owl?

7. What do you think might happen if you clicked on the "Owl cam" link? Tick the best choice.

You would return to the Birdworld home page.

You would see other facts about owls.

You would see some Northern Barred Owls live.

You could find out about the way they hunt.

8. Can you think of any other pages this website might have?
