Name: _____ Date: _____

How Owls Hunt at Night

Circle group

Owls hunt at night. Most birds sleep when it is dark. An owl wakes up and goes to work. Its body has tools for hunting in the dark.

An owl has big eyes. They take in a little light, so the owl can see at night. The eyes cannot move in their sockets. So the owl turns its whole head to look around. Some owls can turn their heads almost all the way around.

An owl hears very well. In many kinds of owls, one ear sits a bit higher than the other. A sound gets to one ear a tiny bit before the other. The owl uses this to find a mouse. It can find one even under the snow.

Soft feathers let an owl fly with little noise. A mouse cannot hear the owl coming until it is too late.

Questions

1. What does an owl do while most birds sleep?

_____

_____

2. How does an owl look around if its eyes cannot move?

_____

_____

3. What helps an owl find a mouse under the snow?

_____

_____

4. Why does a sound get to one ear before the other?

_____

_____

5. What lets an owl fly with little noise?

_____

_____

6. Why does an owl need to turn its head so far?

_____

_____

Words to know

sockets: the round hollow places in the skull that hold the eyes
feathers: the light, soft parts that cover a bird's body

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How Owls Hunt at Night

Triangle group

Owls are hunters of the night. While most birds sleep after dark, an owl wakes up and goes to work. Its body has special tools that make night hunting possible.

An owl has very large eyes. They are built to gather even a little bit of light, so the owl can see in the dark. The eyes cannot move in their sockets, though. To look around, an owl turns its whole head. Some owls can turn their heads almost all the way around.

An owl also has excellent hearing. In many kinds of owls, one ear sits a little higher on the head than the other. Because of this, a sound reaches one ear a tiny moment before the other. The owl uses that difference to find out exactly where a mouse is hiding, even under the snow.

Soft feathers help an owl fly without much noise. A mouse cannot hear the owl coming until it is too late.

Questions

1. What does an owl do while most birds are sleeping?

_____

_____

2. How does an owl look around if its eyes cannot move?

_____

_____

3. What sense helps an owl find a mouse hiding under the snow?

_____

_____

4. Why does a sound reach one of an owl's ears before the other?

_____

_____

5. What helps an owl fly without much noise?

_____

_____

6. Why might an owl need a head that can turn so far?

_____

_____

Words to know

sockets: the round hollow places in the skull that hold the eyes
gather: to collect or bring together
hearing: the ability to notice sounds with the ears
feathers: the light, soft parts that cover a bird's body

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How Owls Hunt at Night

Square group

Owls are nocturnal hunters. While most birds are asleep after dark, an owl wakes up and goes to work, and its body is equipped with remarkable tools for hunting at night.

An owl's enormous eyes are built to gather even a small amount of light, which allows the owl to see in the dark. However, the eyes are fixed in place and cannot swivel in their sockets. To look around, an owl must turn its entire head, and some owls can rotate their heads almost all the way around.

An owl also has outstanding hearing. In many kinds of owls, one ear sits slightly higher on the head than the other. As a result, a sound reaches one ear a tiny moment before it reaches the other, and the owl uses that difference to pinpoint exactly where a mouse is hiding, even beneath the snow.

Finally, soft feathers allow an owl to glide through the air with very little noise, so a mouse cannot hear the hunter approaching until it is far too late.

Questions

1. What does an owl do while most birds are asleep after dark?

_____

_____

2. How does an owl look around, since its eyes are fixed in place?

_____

_____

3. Which sense helps an owl find a mouse hidden beneath the snow?

_____

_____

4. Why does a sound reach one of an owl's ears before the other?

_____

_____

5. What allows an owl to glide through the air quietly?

_____

_____

6. Why might an owl need a head that can turn so far?

_____

_____

Words to know

sockets: the round hollow places in the skull that hold the eyes
gather: to collect or bring together
hearing: the ability to notice sounds with the ears
feathers: the light, soft parts that cover a bird's body

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: How Owls Hunt at Night

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: How Owls Hunt at Night

Easier · 142 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.7

1. It wakes up and hunts.
2. It turns its whole head.
3. Its hearing.
4. In many owls, one ear sits a bit higher than the other.
5. Its soft feathers.
6. Its eyes cannot move, so it can only see where its head points.

Triangle: How Owls Hunt at Night

This passage · 159 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.1

1. It wakes up and hunts.
2. It turns its whole head.
3. Its hearing.
4. In many owls, one ear sits a little higher than the other.
5. Its soft feathers.
6. Its eyes cannot move, so it can only look where its head points. Turning the head lets it see in many directions.

Square: How Owls Hunt at Night

Harder · 174 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8

1. It wakes up and hunts.
2. It turns its entire head.
3. Its hearing.
4. In many kinds of owls, one ear sits slightly higher on the head than the other.
5. Its soft feathers.
6. Its eyes are fixed and cannot move, so the owl can only look where its head points. Turning the head lets it see in many directions.