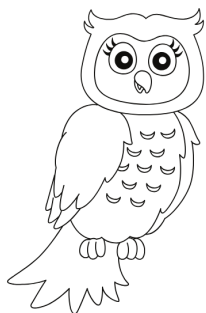




NOCTURNAL ANIMALS

Fact Sheet

The Nocturnal Animals Fact Sheets activity is designed to educate K-5 grade students about animals that are active at night, such as owls, bats, raccoons, opossums, and hedgehogs. Each fact sheet includes spaces for students to record information they learn. The sheets also feature coloring, drawing, and writing sections for each animal, allowing students to engage creatively.



OWL

Strigiformes



Habitat

Owls can live almost anywhere, from forests to deserts, and even in cities!

Diet

Owls mostly eat insects and small animals like mice or small birds.

Notable Features

Owls have large eyes and a flat face. They can rotate their heads up to 270 degrees.

Fun Fact

Owls can fly very quietly, so they can sneak up on food without being heard.

Fill in the blank!

Read each fact about owls and use the clues to fill in the missing words. Write your answers in the blanks provided.

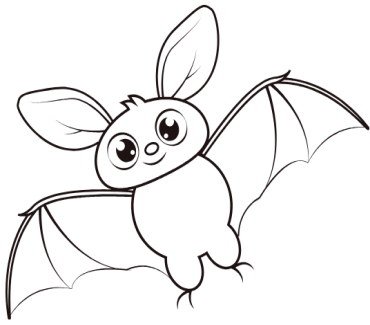
1. Owls can live almost anywhere, from _____ to _____, and even in cities!
2. Owls mostly eat _____ and small animals like _____ or small birds.
3. An owl's head can turn up to _____ degrees, allowing it to see behind without moving its body.

Word Bank:

insects 270 deserts forests mice

Draw or Write

Draw your own owl habitat or write a short story about a night in the life of an owl.



BAT

Chiroptera



Habitat

Bats live in lots of different places all around the world, like caves, trees, and even under bridges in cities!

Diet

Most bats eat insects like mosquitoes and moths, but some eat fruit, and a few types even drink nectar from flowers.

Notable Features

Bats are the only mammals that can fly really well, and they use a special skill called echolocation to find food in the dark.

Fun Fact

Bats have stretchy skin on their wings that helps them zip through the air really well.

Fill in the blank!

Read each fact about bats and use the clues to fill in the missing words. Write your answers in the blanks provided.

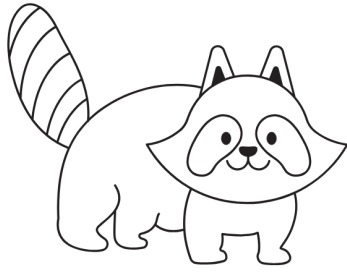
1. Bats can live in places ranging from _____ to _____ to _____.
2. The Bat's diet consists mainly of _____, _____, and _____.
3. Bats use _____ to navigate and find food in the _____.

Word Bank:

trees echolocation fruit dark nectar caves insects city bridges

Draw or Write

Draw a bat flying in the night sky or write a short story about a night adventure of a bat.



RACCOON

Procyon lotor



Habitat

Raccoons live in many places like forests, marshes, and cities, often near water.

Diet

They eat almost anything, including fruits, insects, frogs, and sometimes food from trash cans.

Notable Features

Raccoons are known for their black mask-like fur around their eyes and their very sensitive, dexterous hands.

Fun Fact

They help control insect and small animal populations and spread the seeds of the fruits they eat.

Fill in the blank!

Read each fact about raccoon and use the clues to fill in the missing words. Write your answers in the blanks provided.

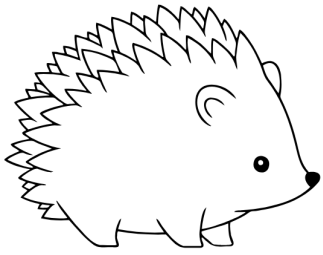
1. Raccoons live in many places like forests, _____, and cities, often near _____.
2. The Raccoon's diet consists mainly of _____, _____, and _____.
3. A raccoon's distinctive feature is its _____ around its eyes.

Word Bank:

frogs mask-like black fur fruits marshes water insects

Draw or Write

Draw your own raccoon habitat or write a short story about a raccoon's night-time adventure in a park.



HEDGEHOG

Erinaceus europaeus



Habitat

Hedgehogs live in gardens, forests, and grasslands where they can find lots of ground cover to hide under.

Diet

They eat insects, snails, frogs, and even small snakes!

Notable Features

Hedgehogs have spiny quills on their backs which they use to protect themselves. When threatened, they roll up into a tight ball so the quills stick out.

Fun Fact

When they encounter new scents or taste something interesting, they create a frothy saliva which they spread on their quills in a behavior called "self-anointing."

Fill in the blank!

Read each fact about hedgehogs and use the clues to fill in the missing words. Write your answers in the blanks provided.

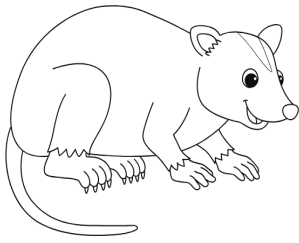
1. Hedgehogs can live in environments ranging from _____ to _____.
2. The hedgehog's diet consists mainly of _____, _____, _____, and _____.
3. When _____, a hedgehog can roll into a ball with its quills sticking out to _____ itself.

Word Bank:

protect gardens threatened insects snails grasslands frogs small snakes

Draw or Write

Draw your own hedgehog habitat or write a short story about a night in the life of a hedgehog exploring the garden.



OPOSSUM

Didelphis virginiana



Habitat

Opossums like to make their homes in tree holes, under bushes, or in places humans have built, like garages.

Diet

Opossums are not picky eaters. They love eating fruits, insects, small animals, and even garbage!

Notable Features

Opossums have a unique trick to protect themselves—they play dead! When scared, they fall over and look like they're not alive.

Fun Fact

Opossums have a prehensile tail, which means they can use it to grab branches and carry small objects.

Fill in the blank!

Read each fact about opossums and use the clues to fill in the missing words. Write your answers in the blanks provided.

1. Opossums like to make their homes in _____, under bushes, or in places humans have built, like _____.
2. The opossum's diet consists mainly of _____, _____ and _____.
3. To protect themselves, opossums play _____.

Word Bank:

garages insects tree holes dead fruits small animals

Draw or Write

Draw an opossum using its tail to hang from a tree, or write a short story about how an opossum escapes from a predator by playing dead.

Answers

OWL

Fill in the blank questions

1. Owls can live almost anywhere, from **forests** to **deserts** and even in cities!
2. Owls mostly eat **insects** and small animals like **mice** or small birds.
3. An owl's head can turn up to **270** degrees, allowing it to see behind without moving its body.

BAT

Fill in the blank questions

1. Bats can live in places ranging from **caves** to **trees** to **city bridges**.
2. The Bat's diet consists mainly of **insects**, **fruit**, and **nectar**.
3. Bats use **echolocation** to navigate and find food in the **dark**.

RACCOON

Fill in the blank questions

1. Raccoons live in many places like forests, **marshes** and cities, often near **water**.
2. The raccoon's diet consists mainly of **fruits**, **insects**, and **frogs**.
3. A raccoon's distinctive feature is its **mask-like black fur** around its eyes.

HEDGEHOGS

Fill in the blank questions

1. Hedgehogs can live in environments ranging from **gardens** to **grasslands**.
2. The hedgehog's diet consists mainly of **insects**, **snails**, **frogs**, and **small snakes**.
3. When **threatened**, a hedgehog can roll into a ball with its quills sticking out to **protect** itself.

OPOSSUM

Fill in the blank questions

1. Opossums like to make their homes in **tree holes**, under bushes, or in places humans have built, like **garages**.
2. The opossum's diet consists mainly of **fruits**, **insects**, and **small animals**.
3. To protect themselves, opossums play **dead**.