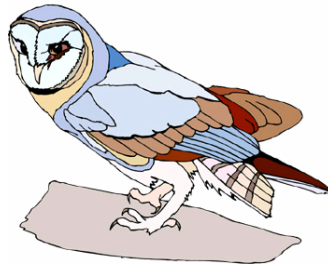


OWLS



An owl is a bird. There are two basic types of owls: typical owls and barn owls. Owls live in almost every country of the world.

Owls are mostly **nocturnal**, meaning they are awake at night. Owls are **predators**- they hunt the food that they eat. Owls hunt for mice and other small mammals, insects, and even fish. Owls are well adapted for hunting. Their soft, fluffy feathers make their flight nearly silent. They have very good hearing, which helps them to hunt well in the darkness. The sharp hooked beaks and claws of the owl make it very easy to tear apart prey quickly, although owls also eat some prey whole.

Owl eyes are unusual. Like most predators, both of the owl's eyes face front. The owl cannot move its eyes. Owls are far-sighted, which means they can see very well far away... but they can't see up close very well at all. Fortunately, their distant vision is what they use for hunting, and they can see far away even in low light. Owls have **facial disks** around their eyes, tufts of feathers in a circle around each eye. These facial disks are thought to help with the owl's hearing.

Owls can turn their heads 180 degrees. This makes it look like they might be able to turn their heads all the way around, but 180 degrees is all the owl needs to see what's going on all around him.

Perhaps because of the owl's mysterious appearance, especially its round eyes and flexible neck, there are a lot of myths and superstitions about owls. Many cultures believe that owls are unusually wise. Because owls are nocturnal, some cultures associate owls with bad omens. The screech of the barn owl is considered by many to sound eerily human, like a person screaming. However, owls probably do not interact with the fates of humans at all. In fact, some owl species may become extinct because of humans.

Name _____ Date _____

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ABOUT OWLS

1. Which of the following is NOT true about owls?
 - a. Owls eat small animals.
 - b. Owls are able to fly silently.
 - c. Owls have the best hearing of all birds.
 - d. Owls have poor vision

2. What is the eyesight of the owl used for?
 - a. flying
 - b. hunting
 - c. sleeping
 - d. none of these

3. What is the purpose of this story?
 - a. to entertain
 - b. to inform
 - c. to persuade
 - d. none of these

4. What would be a good title for this story?
 - a. Owls Hunt At Night
 - b. Owls Can Fly Silently
 - c. Owls Are Interesting Animals
 - d. Owls Have Flexible Necks

5. What is a predator?
 - a. a small feather
 - b. an animal that hunts other animals
 - c. a small mouse
 - d. none of these

6. Which of the following IS true?
 - a. The facial disks of the owl help them to see.
 - b. Owls have a strong, bent beak.
 - c. Most owls hunt for food during the day.
 - d. Owls are dangerous to humans.

7. Why does it look like an owl can turn its head completely around?
 - a. They are able to turn their heads very quickly.
 - b. They have ears located on the sides of their head.
 - c. They can turn their heads 1/2 of the way around.
 - d. both a and c

Name _____ Date _____

Answers to **OWLS**

1. d
2. b
3. b
4. c
5. b
6. b
7. c