

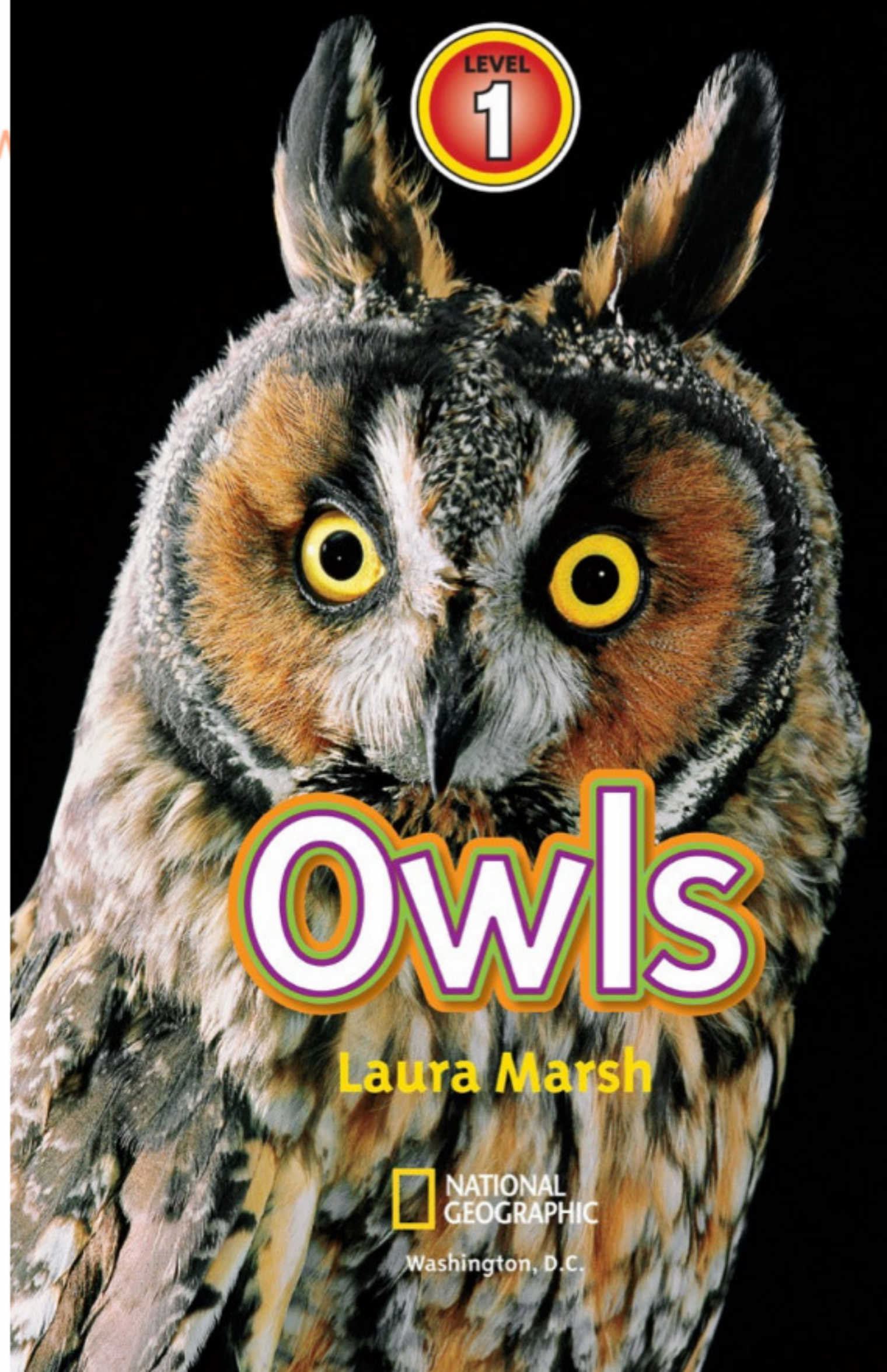
公众号：W

National Geographic Readers: Owls

By: Laura Marsh

Follow adorable owls through their wooded habitats, and learn how they raise their young, hunt, and protect themselves.

5-7 Age Range	5-20 mins Length	480L Lexile [®] Measure	2.8 AR Level
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Owls

Laura Marsh

 NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC
Washington, D.C.

Who Are You?

公众号: Wecancan

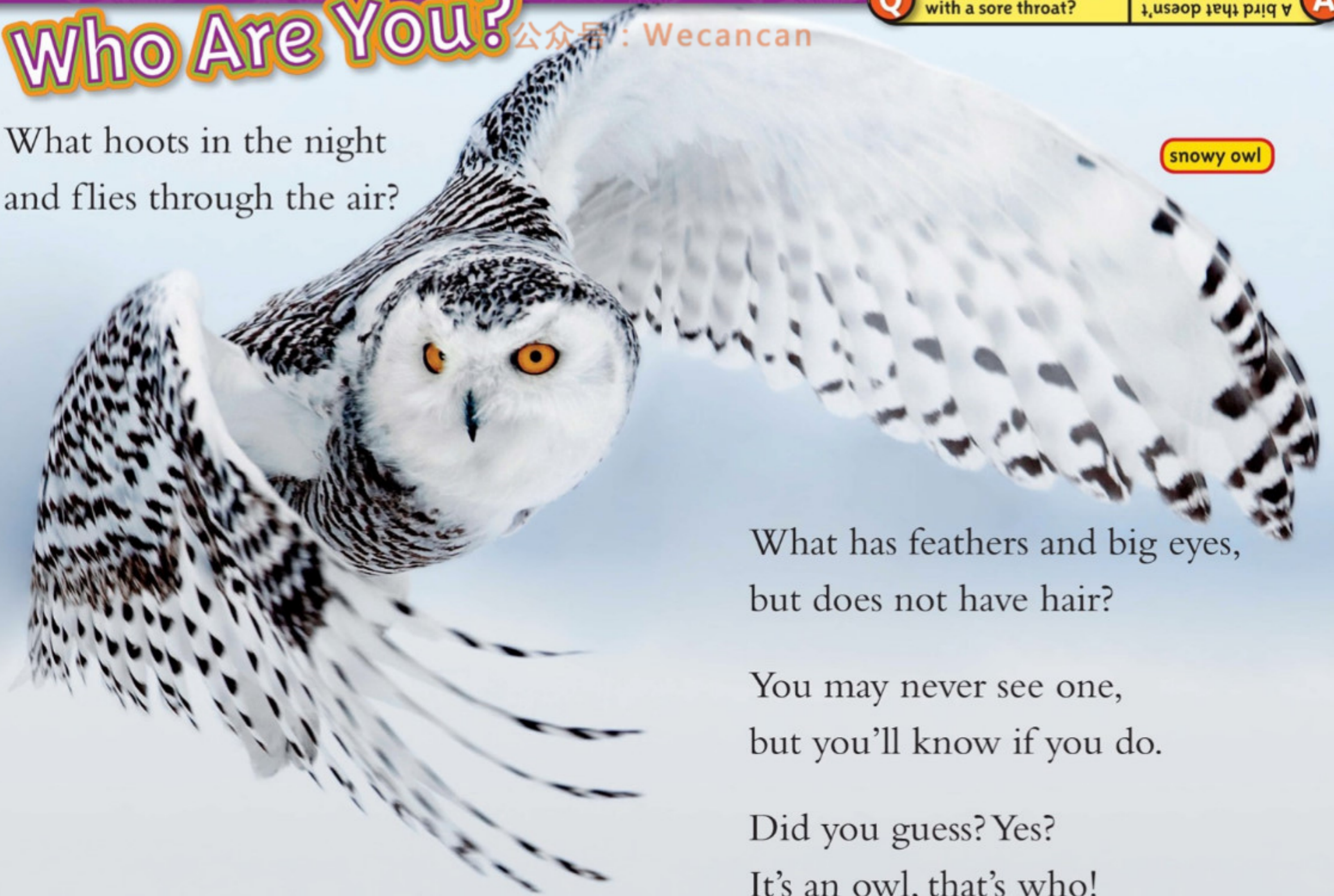
Q

What do you call an owl with a sore throat?

A
A bird that doesn't give a hoot!

What hoots in the night
and flies through the air?

snowy owl



What has feathers and big eyes,
but does not have hair?

You may never see one,
but you'll know if you do.

Did you guess? Yes?
It's an owl, that's who!

Many Owls

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There are more than 155 kinds of owls. Owls can be big or small. Their faces can be round or shaped like a heart.



barn owl

6

eagle owl



Eastern screech owl



Owls come in lots of colors and patterns.

Oriental bay owl



great gray owl



7

Owls Everywhere

We can



barred owl



great horned owl

Owls live in cold places and hot places. They live in rain forests and deserts. Owls also live in the mountains and near the ocean.

Hotshot Hunters

Owls are great fliers. They are also great hunters. Most owls hunt at night. Their bodies are made for hunting.

EYES: Owls see better at night than any other bird. They can spot their food quickly in the dark.

EARS: Great ears help owls hear animals they want to eat. An owl can hear a mouse on the ground 75 feet away.

WINGS: Strong wings move quickly and quietly.

BEAK: A sharp, curved beak tears meat into bits.

FEET: Powerful feet pounce on food.

northern spotted owl

TALONS: They grab and carry food.



Bird Box

TALONS: Sharp claws on birds that hunt and eat meat

Owls watch their prey carefully.
But they can't move their eyes.
They turn their heads to follow
their prey.



little owl



Bird Box

PREY: An animal
that is eaten by
another animal



short-eared owl

Owl heads turn much farther than
human heads do. Owls can see
behind them. They can even twist
their heads almost upside down!

Q What do you call an owl on wheels?

A A hooter-scooter!

A

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short-eared owl



Owls are quiet fliers. They can sneak up on their prey.

An owl has special feathers on its wings. The feathers have extra-soft edges. They make the wings quiet. Prey cannot hear the owl flying toward it.



Dinnertime!



Western screech owl

Many owls eat small animals like mice. Some owls eat insects, snakes, or fish. Other owls even eat small birds and bigger animals, too.

Owls do not chew their food. They don't have teeth. Owls tear food with their sharp beaks. Or they eat their prey whole.

Owl Homes

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young great horned owls

Owls travel to different areas to hunt. So they don't call one place home. They often just pick a tree to rest in.

But young owls stay in or near a nest. They stay until they learn to fly. Owl nests may be in trees or on the ground.



young burrowing owls

Hide and Seek

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These owls are hiding.
Can you find them?

They look like the land
and trees around them.
This is called camouflage
(CAM-oh-flahj). It helps
the owls stay safe from
enemies.



Bird Box

CAMOUFLAGE: An animal's natural color or shape that blends in with what is around it



short-eared owl



African scops owl



snowy owl



little owl

7 Cool Owl Facts

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1
Owls have feathers all over their bodies. They even have feathers on their legs.



2
The Eurasian (yur-AY-shun) eagle owl has a very large wingspan. Its wings stretch about as long as your couch!



3
The elf owl is the smallest owl. It is about as tall as a cell phone.



4
Great gray owls can hear a mouse moving under deep snow. Their talons grab the mouse through the snow.



5
Great horned owls are not picky eaters. They are the only animals that often eat skunks.



6
Owls don't have ears that stick out like ours do. Their ears are just holes on the sides of their heads.



Bird Box

WINGSPAN: The length from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other wing



7
Owls have two toes in the front and one in back. A fourth toe can move either way to help grab things.

A Nest of Babies

A mother owl lays about two to six eggs at one time. She sits on the eggs until they hatch.

Owls that have just hatched have soft, fluffy feathers. Young owls are called owlets.



Q What did the owl parents say to the baby owl that asked to stay up late?

A Sorry, you are not old enough!

A



snowy owl owlets

tawny owl owlet



Every day the owlets grow bigger.
They grow new feathers, too.

The father owl often brings food
to the family. The owlets learn
to fly and hunt as they get older.

great owls



Who Hoots?

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Q

What did the owl say when it was time to say goodbye?

What did the owl say when it was time to say goodbye?

A



Cape Eagle owl

Try making a hooting call out your window at night. Then listen carefully. An owl just might return your call!

But not all owls hoot. Different owls have different calls. Some owls screech. Others hiss, whistle, or even bark. What do you hear?

What in the World?

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WORD BANK

feathers beak eyes owlet talons wings

These pictures show close-up views of owls. Use the hints below to figure out what's in the pictures. Answers are on page 31.



HINT: They can carry dinner.



HINT: These are all over an owl's body.



HINT: They work well, even in the dark.



HINT: A young owl is called this.



HINT: Owls need these to fly.



HINT: An owl uses this instead of teeth.

Answers: 1. talons, 2. feathers, 3. eyes, 4. owllet, 5. wings, 6. beak



CAMOUFLAGE: An animal's natural color or shape that blends in with what is around it



PREY: An animal that is eaten by another animal



TALONS: Sharp claws on birds that hunt and eat meat



WINGSPAN: The length from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other wing