



Nocturnal Animals Spring 1: Year 2 knowledge organiser

Key Vocab

Nocturnal

talons

eyesight

vision

carnivore

prey

hunting

camouflage

Key facts: nocturnal animals

- Nocturnal animals are animals that prefer to come out during the night.
- Some nocturnal animals can be seen during the day, whilst others spend the whole day resting or sleeping.
- The darkness gives them some protection from predators.
- They usually have super senses of sight, hearing, smell, touch and taste to help them in the dark.
- Nocturnal animals have another trick to help them stay hidden and this is called **camouflage** – dull colours and dappled fur helps them to blend with their surroundings.





Key facts: foxes

- The male fox is called a **dog** or **tod**. It hunts alone rather than in packs.
- In the wild, foxes eat worms, beetles, rabbits, chickens and snails. They do not like to waste food and will save leftovers for later by burying them.
- Lots of foxes now live in towns and cities and will eat any food left over that they can find in bins or compost heaps.
- Foxes are nocturnal animals which means they come out at night. That is why the best time to look out for a fox is at dawn or dusk.
- Foxes communicate using lots of different sounds including barks and eerie screams.
- Foxes live in underground burrows called **earths**.

Key facts: hedgehogs

- Did you know a baby hedgehog is called a **hoglet**?
- Hedgehogs are good swimmers. They are expert climbers, too, and have even been known to climb over garden walls!
- Hedgehogs have about 5,000 spikes on their backs which they use to protect themselves from predators.
- Hedgehogs are **carnivores** and eat slugs, snails, caterpillars, beetles, earthworms, birds' eggs and sometimes frogs.
- Hedgehogs can be very noisy eaters – they grunt as they munch!
- A hedgehog hibernates from November until March.
- A hedgehog's hibernation nest is called a **hibernaculum**.

Key facts: bats

- Did you know that there are 17 types of bat in the UK? In low light, bats can see even better than humans!
- Long-eared bats' ears are three-quarters the length of their head and body.
- The pipistrelle bat is the smallest and weighs the same as 11 paperclips!
- A bat's squeak is very high-pitched and the older you get the more difficult it is to hear.
- The place where bats sleep is called a **roost**. Bats hang upside down when they sleep because that is the only way their muscles will support them.
- When hunting at night time, bats send out squeaking, screeching sounds. When the noise bounces back from their prey, they can work out how far away and where it is. This is called **echolocation**.

Key facts: owls

- Owls have amazing hearing and can see well in the dark. They cannot move their eyes but make up for it by being able to swivel their heads right round.
- Owls nest in farm buildings as well as churches, sheds and natural holes in trees.
- Owls eat insects, shrews, mice, voles, rats, small birds and frogs.
- Owls are carnivores. They hunt at night time, using their excellent hearing to pinpoint prey before silently swooping down to catch them with **sharp talons**.
- Some owls do not hoot, instead they make a long, eerie screech. They also hiss, snore and yap!
- Owls catch and channel sound through their **facial disk**, so they have an excellent sense of hearing.

