

Get Curious! Animal Senses

Sight



Barn owl

Barn owls are birds of prey, hunting and catching small mammals, mostly field voles. They have some specially adapted features to help them hunt for food in the dark, such as incredibly sensitive hearing and the ability to see movement with very little light.

Owlets

Baby owls are called owlets. Barn owl parents tend to mate for life and return to the same nest site each year. They generally produce two or three young a year. An owlet will start flying by the time they are eight or nine weeks old and by ten weeks old they will have most of their adult feathers.



Did you know?

Owls have large eyes to help them see in low light conditions. Their eyes are not eye "balls" as such, but elongated tubes. Because of this, an owl cannot roll or move its eyes - it can only look ahead! They also have three eyelids: the upper closes to blink, the lower closes when asleep and the third eye lid comes diagonally across from the inside to the outside which protects the eye.

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I wonder...

Using the picture, what things could you wonder about? There doesn't need to be an answer! Here are some examples:

- I wonder where the owl is flying to.
- I wonder what time of day it is.
- I wonder if it's hunting for voles.
- I wonder how far it's flown.

Talk together

- Describe the scene.
- Talk about the colours of the owl's feathers and the sharpness of its beak.
- Discuss why it might be sitting on the ground.
- Share ideas about what it might do next.



Ideas for home



- CRAFT: Take a strip of card large enough to go round your child's head. Add two large eyes and a pointed beak to create an owl headband.
- DRAMA: Imagine you and your little one are owls, flap your wings and soar about the room.
- GAME: Put six objects on a tray. Give your child 30 seconds to look and remember them. Ask them to turn away, remove an item. Ask them to turn back and see if they can say what object was taken. Adjust the number of objects as desired.
- MUSIC: Sing 'The Owl and the Pussycat'.