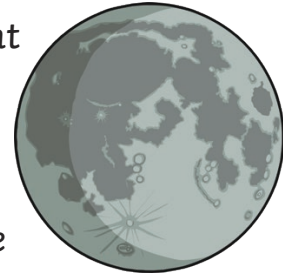


Nocturnal Animals

What Is a Nocturnal Animal?

Nocturnal animals are mostly active at night and sleep during the day. Many of them have an excellent sense of smell and very good hearing. Some nocturnal animals also have special eyesight. These extra strong senses make it easier for them to hunt, but it also means they can see predators more easily. Animals that are active during the day and sleep at night are called diurnal.



Seeing in the Dark

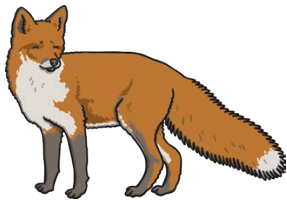
Some animals, like cats, have eyes that adapt to seeing in both the day and night. However, many nocturnal animals have specially adapted eyes. Many people think that bats are blind but they can actually see almost as well as humans. However, at night, their hearing is more important to them. This is because bats use a special sense called echolocation to help them navigate at night. The bats make sounds and when the sound hits an object, it makes an echo. Bats then use this to judge how close they are to things. Owls have very large eyes compared to the size of their bodies which helps them to see well in the dark.

Nocturnal Animals in the UK

In the UK, nocturnal animals can be found in many places, including woodlands, towns, fields and parks. These animals include badgers, foxes, owls, bats and hedgehogs.



Some nocturnal animals are protected because there are too few of them in the wild. This means they are endangered. In the UK, hedgehogs are endangered. This is because their natural habitats are being destroyed by things such as pollution and construction work. It is important to look after natural habitats so that these animals can thrive.



Did You Know?

A fox's hearing is so good they can hear animals digging underground! This can really help foxes to hunt for prey at night.

Questions

1. What do **diurnal** animals do? Tick one.

- They are active at night and asleep in the day.
- They are active during the day and asleep at night.
- They are active during the day and at night.

2. Name three places nocturnal animals can be found in the UK.

3. What word is used to describe the environment an animal lives in?

4. Draw a line to match the word to its meaning.

navigate

become adjusted to certain conditions

adapt

guide or steer someone/something

predator

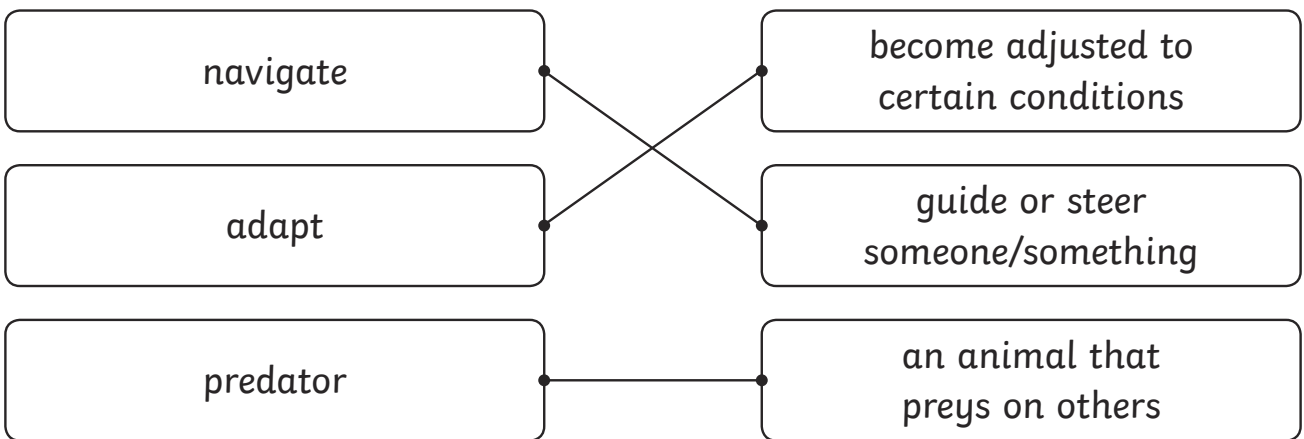
an animal that preys on others

5. In your own words, what does the word **nocturnal** mean?

6. Do you think it is important to protect the habitats of endangered animals? Why?

Answers

- What do **diurnal** animals do? Tick one.
 - They are active at night and asleep in the day.
 - They are active during the day and asleep at night.**
 - They are active during the day and at night.
- Name three places nocturnal animals can be found in the UK.
Any three from the following: woodlands, towns, fields, parks.
- What word is used to describe the environment an animal lives in?
habitat
- Draw a line to match the word to its meaning.



- In your own words, what does the word **nocturnal** mean?
In children's own words. Answer should relate to animals being active/awake at night and asleep/resting during the day.
- Do you think it is important to protect the habitats of endangered animals? Why?
Children's own answers.