

All About Owls-Fact Find



Read each fact. Find the underlined words in the puzzle. Circle the words.



- ❑ There are over 200 different species of owls. An owl's large head and big eyes make it easily distinguishable from other birds.
- ❑ About 20 owl species can be found in the United States and Canada. One of the most common is the Barn Owl, which is easy to recognize due to its heart shaped face.
- ❑ Owls have been found on every continent except Antarctica.
- ❑ Owls are typically solitary animals. If they are in a group, the group is called a parliament.
- ❑ Owls are sometimes referred to as 'wise'. This reference dates back to the Ancient Greek goddess of wisdom, Athena. An owl was the symbol used to represent Athena.
- ❑ Most owls are nocturnal, meaning they are active and hunting prey at night. Several types of owls are active during the day, while others are active at dawn and dusk.
- ❑ Larger owls are often at the top of the food chain with few animals preying on them. A few animals that might hunt smaller owls are: cats, foxes, larger owls, coyotes, raccoons, or even eagles.
- ❑ Owls tend to prey on mice, rats, squirrels, and other furry animals. They might also eat worms, spiders, or lizards. Small birds are also eaten.
- ❑ Owls regurgitate, or throw up, pellets about twice a day. Pellets include the part of their prey that wasn't digested. If you dissected a pellet, you might find bones, teeth, and feathers.
- ❑ Owls have very strong talons, or claws, that they use to help catch animals. Owls tend to swallow their prey whole, but they may also use their talons to help kill their prey.
- ❑ Owls have a uniquely shaped head that allows it to collect sound. Also, their ears are asymmetrical. One ear is set higher than the other, which allows the owl to figure out the location of sounds.
- ❑ Owls are not able to move their eyes within their eye sockets. In order to look around or track their prey, they must move their head from side to side. They are also far-sighted, which means they have trouble seeing things close to them.
- ❑ Owls have twice as many neck bones as humans. They can also rotate their head 270 degrees.
- ❑ The smallest owl species is the Elf Owl. It is approximately 6 inches long. The largest owl is the Great Gray Owl. They grow to about 30 inches. They have a wingspan of nearly 60 inches.
- ❑ Owls perch in many different places, such as in barns, in hollow trees, under bridges, in treetops, and on high fence posts.
- ❑ Owls might lay 4-6 eggs, laying an egg every couple of days. They hatch after about 31 days. Baby owls are called owlets.