Owls

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Owls are nocturnal

Most owls are **nocturnal** birds. This means that they sleep in the daytime and are awake at night.

Most owls go hunting for their food at night.



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Owl sounds

Different owls make different sounds.

Barn owls make a clucking, snoring sound or a long hair-raising screech.

The boobook owl's call sounds like *boo-book* or *more-pork*.
The boobook owl is also called a morepork owl.





The tawny owl has a few different calls. One of its calls sounds like *tu-whit-tu-who-oo-oo*.

When do most owls hunt for their food?

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What owls look like



Owls have large heads with eyes that look forward as they hunt for prey.

Owls' eyes are very big to let in more light. This helps them to see in the dark.



Most owls hunt for their food at night.

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Owls have an extra eyelid
that protects their eyes
from dirt and dust.



This extra eyelid also
helps keep light out of
the owls' eyes during the day
when they are asleep.

Why do owls have big eyes?

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All sorts of owls

The **barn owl** lives on every continent of the world except Antarctica.



The large **snowy owl** lives in the cold Arctic. Its white feathers with black marks help it to hide in the snow.

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Owls have big eyes to help them see in the dark.



The **boobook** or **morepork** owl is spotted. When it is in danger, it presses its feathers close to its body, sits up straight and tries to look like the tree it is perching on.

Both the snowy and the morepork owls have good **camouflage**. This means they are hard to see.

These are only a few of the different kinds of owls that live around the world.

Do all owls look the same?

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