

The Barn Owl



There are many species of barn owls. They are birds of prey and come out at night. Sometimes they are called monkey-faced owls because of their heart shaped facial disks and absence of ear tufts. These lovely owls grow around 30 to 40 cm long and are white to grey or yellowish to brownish orange in colour. Their eyes are dark and small in comparison with those of other owls. The barn owls mainly hunt small rodents like mice for food and nest in buildings, towers and old hawk's nests. They often inhabit open grasslands. The common barn owl is found world wide except in Antarctica and Micronesia. Australia's most common barn owl is the common grass owl.

Your task:

Research science books, encyclopedias, the Internet and dictionaries in order to answer the following questions. Take notes of your research and collate these in essay or small pamphlet order. Use pictures cut from papers or magazines, try the Internet for printables or test your artistic skills and draw some owls. Answer as many questions as possible.

1. What species of owls live in your local area?
2. Do any owls live here? (If not - why not)
3. Where would you have to travel to in order to find owls?
4. What do they eat?
5. How do they breed?
6. Describe their colour, shape, size, height and weight.
7. Where did they originate?
8. Is the owl an environmental issue in your area? Explain if it is.
9. What impact would serious, heavy industry have on the owl's survival in your area?
10. Map the geographical location of the owl in your area.
11. If possible take photos, otherwise draw pictures of the owl specie in your area.
12. Can you locate newspaper or magazine articles about your owl specie?
13. If possible organize a night expedition and spot owls in the wild, otherwise try to visit a zoo.

