



Activities to use with

Hoot

You can get the [Google Slides](#) for these activities here.

Figurative Language

Match these figurative phrases containing the word owl with their meanings.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. _____ as wise as an owl | a) I am not foolish or easily frightened. |
| 2. _____ I wasn't brought up in the woods to be scared by owls. | b) someone who is active at night |
| 3. _____ a night owl | c) to do something that is pointless |
| 4. _____ bring owls to Athens | a) exceptionally sensible |

Match each figurative phrase to the figurative phrase that has a similar meaning and to the figurative phrase that has an opposite meaning. The first one has been done for you.

Synonyms / Similar Meanings

Antonyms / Opposite Meanings

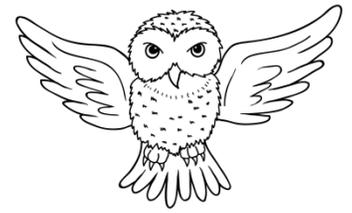
_____ nighthawk	1. as wise as an owl	_____ early bird
_____ sell ice to Eskimos	2. I wasn't brought up in the woods to be scared by owls.	___1___ not playing with a full deck
___1___ a sharp cookie	3. a night owl	_____ of great consequence
_____ keep a stiff upper lip	4. bring owls to Athens	_____ come apart at the seams

Interesting Fact

In the ancient city of Athens, owls were abundant. Silver coins were even minted with an image of an owl because of their numbers. Telling someone to bring an owl to Athens is like telling someone to take sand to the beach. This would be a useless task.



Context Clues

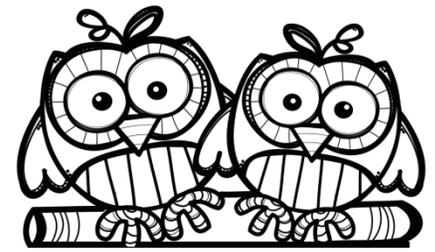


Use the words in the text box to complete the facts about Burrowing Owls.

food	ground squirrels	migrate	Southwestern
yellow	robin	habitats	ears
warming	night	14%	tolerate
eggs	size	beetles	legs

1. Burrowing Owls live in in the lower _____ United States and Florida.
2. The small, sandy-colored owls have bright _____ eyes.
3. They live in burrows that have been abandoned by prairie dogs, _____ , or desert tortoises.
4. They prefer open _____ , where they hunt mainly insects and rodents.
5. Male and female Burrowing Owls are the same _____ .
6. Burrowing Owls store extra _____ .
7. Because gas can accumulate underground, Burrowing Owls can _____ high levels of carbon dioxide.
8. To attract _____ , Burrowing Owls drag animal dung over the entrance of their homes before laying _____ .
9. Burrowing Owls are active during the daytime but hunt at dusk or _____ .
10. Audubon's scientists predict that approximately _____ of the Burrowing Owls' range will be lost due to global _____ .
11. Burrowing Owls have longer _____ than other owls to help them to run while hunting.
12. During the summer, Burrowing Owls _____ north to breed.
13. Burrowing Owls lack _____ , have prominent eyebrows, and a white patch on their chins.
14. They measure 7.5 to 11 inches in length with wingspans up to 24 inches. They are slightly larger than an American _____ .

Owls



Read the passage and answer the questions.

Owls begin to be especially lively toward night, only they make no noise as they fly about. Very soft, fluffy plumage muffles their flight so that they can drop upon a meadow mouse creeping through the grass in the still night before this small, **timorous** creature suspects there is a foe abroad.

As owls live mostly on mice. If mice should change their nocturnal habits, the owl's whole scheme of existence would be upset, and the hawks would get the quarry that they now enjoy: mice, rats, moles, bats, frogs and the larger insects. Farmers have invaluable day and night allies in these birds of prey which take turns in protecting his fields from rodents, one patrol working while the other sleeps. On the whole, owls are the more valuable to him. They usually continue their good work all through the winter after the hawks have gone South.

Not only can owls fluff out their loose, mottled plumage, but they can draw it in so close as to change their shape and size in an instant, so that they look like quite different birds, or rather not like birds at all, but stumps of trees. Altering their outlines, changing their shape and size at will, is one of these strange birds' **peculiarities**.

Their eyes, set in the center of feathered discs, do not **revolve** in their sockets, but are so **fixed** that they look only straight ahead, which is why an owl must turn his head every time he wishes to glance to the right or left.

Another peculiarity is the owls' method of eating. Bolting entire all the food they catch, head first, they digest only the nutritious portions of it. Then, bowing their heads and shaking them very hard, they eject the bones, claws, skin, hair and fur in matted pellets, without the least distress.

Like hawks, owls are devoted, life-long mates. The females are larger than the males. Some like to live in dense evergreens that hide them from teasing blue jays and other foes by day; some, like the barn owl, prefer towers, church steeples or the tops of barns and other buildings; some hide in hollow trees or deserted woodpeckers' holes, but all naturally prefer to take their long, daily naps where the sunlight does not penetrate. They live in their homes more hours than woodpeckers or any other birds. No doubt we pass by many sleeping owls without suspecting their presence.

1. What is the main verb tense in the passage?

- a) future
- b) present
- c) past
- d) present and past

2. Complete this sentence with the correct words.

Bolting entire all the food they _____, head first, they _____ only the nutritious portions of it.

- a) catch, digests
- b) catches, digest
- c) catches, digests
- d) catch, digest

3. Reread the first paragraph. What does **timorous** most like mean?
- a) risky
 - b) lively
 - c) brave
 - d) fearful
5. Which word from the passage is a comparative adjective?
- a) nutritious
 - b) fluffy
 - c) larger
 - d) sleeping
7. Which association words are the context clue for the word **peculiarities**?
- a) these strange birds
 - b) shape and size
 - c) altering their outlines
 - d) changing their shape
9. The words **revolve** and **fixed** are ----.
- a) antonyms
 - b) synonyms
 - c) associations
 - d) word and definition
4. In this sentence, "Not only can owls fluff out **their** loose, mottled plumage, but they can draw it in so close as to change their shape and size in an instant..." the bold pronoun their agrees with ---.
- a) the plural noun plumage
 - b) the plural noun owls
 - c) the plural noun shape
 - d) the plural noun size
6. What is the meaning of the word **peculiarities**?
- a) whims
 - b) uniqueness
 - c) abnormalities
 - d) trends
8. Read the following sentence from the passage. On the whole, owls are the **more** valuable to him. In the sentence the word more is a ---.
- a) a subject adjective
 - b) a proper adjective
 - c) a superlative adjective
 - d) a comparative adjective
10. Based on the information in the passage, which of the following relationship is MOST similar to the relationship below?
- owls : nocturnal**
- a) blue jays : foes
 - b) woodpeckers : tree dwellers
 - c) hawks : diurnal
 - d) birds of prey : rodents

Answer Keys

Figurative Language

Match these figurative phrases containing the word owl with their meanings.

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|--|---|
| 1. __d__ as wise as an owl | a) I am not foolish or easily frightened. |
| 2. __a__ I wasn't brought up in the woods to be scared by owls. | b) someone who is active at night |
| 3. __b__ a night owl | c) to do something that is pointless |
| 4. __c__ bring owls to Athens | a) exceptionally sensible |

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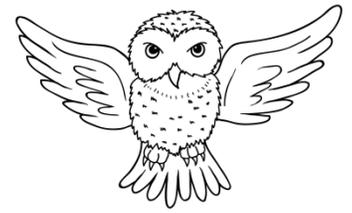
__3__ nighthawk	1. as wise as an owl	__3__ early bird
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__1__ a sharp cookie	3. a night owl	__4__ of great consequence
__2__ keep a stiff upper lip	4. bring owls to Athens	__2__ come apart at the seams

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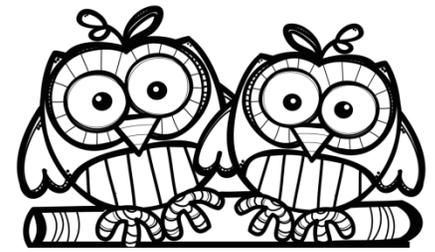


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3. They live in burrows that have been abandoned by prairie dogs, **ground squirrels**, or desert tortoises.
4. They prefer open **habitats**, where they hunt mainly insects and rodents.
5. Male and female Burrowing Owls are the same **size**.
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10. Audubon's scientists predict that approximately **14%** of the Burrowing Owls' range will be lost due to global **warming**.
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