Animals At Night

Rachel Bladon

Read and discover all about amazing animals at night...
• Why do some animals come out at night?
• What special senses do nocturnal animals have?

Read and discover more about the world!
This series of non-fiction readers provides interesting and educational content, with activities and project work.

Series Editor: Hazel Geatches

Audio CD Pack available

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Level 3
600 headwords

Level 4
750 headwords

Level 5
900 headwords

Level 6
1,050 headwords

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At night, when you go to bed, thousands of animals are moving around outside in the dark. Many of them do not sleep all night!

Do you know any animals that come out at night?
How do animals see in the dark?
What animals can you see here?
Life at Night

When the sun goes down, it gets dark and the air gets a lot colder. For many people, it’s time to go to sleep, but a lot of animals only come out at night. They are called nocturnal animals.

The opossum is a nocturnal animal. At night, it looks for plants and small animals to eat. In the day, it hides and goes to sleep.

Nocturnal animals aren’t the only animals that come out at night. Some animals, like the tiger, come out in the day and at night. Other animals, like the rabbit, only come out in the morning when it’s getting light, and in the evening when it’s getting dark.

Some animals come out at night because there are not so many predators – animals that want to hunt and eat them. Some animals find more food because they eat other animals that come out at night. In very hot places, it’s sometimes too hot to come out in the day.

The armadillo is a nocturnal animal, and it sleeps for more than 17 hours in the day!
Special Senses

Many animals that come out at night have special senses. This means that they can see, hear, touch, smell, or taste very well. These special senses help them to find food and to stay safe in the dark.

Wild dogs, like foxes, usually hunt in the dark. They have a big nose, and an amazing sense of smell that helps them to find food. A fox can smell mice through up to 12 centimeters of snow! Foxes also have very big ears that they can move, so they can hear very well all around them.

Raccoons are nocturnal animals that have long fingers and a very good sense of touch. When they are hunting for food in water, they use their fingers to find fish and frogs.

Many nocturnal animals can see much better than people in the dark. They have very big eyes that let in lots of light.

A tarsier’s eye is bigger than its brain! It can see very well in the dark.
Most types of bat are nocturnal. At night they look for fruit and flowers, or they hunt for insects, fish, and mice. Bats can see and smell very well, and many bats have a special sense called echolocation. This helps them to find food in the dark. Bats make special noises when they fly. The noises bounce off things and come back as echoes. These echoes tell bats where things are and how big they are.

In the day, bats hang upside down and stay in caves, trees, and buildings.

In the day, owls stay in trees or buildings, but at night they hunt for food. Owls can see very well in the dark, and they also have an amazing sense of hearing. They listen for little noises from their prey – rabbits, mice, and other small animals that they like to eat. Then they fly down and catch them in their sharp claws.

Many owls have soft feathers on their wings, so they can fly very quietly. Their prey don’t know that they are coming!
Ocean Animals

Some fish live near the top of the ocean in the day and then they swim down to the deep ocean at night. Other fish swim up to the top of the ocean at night, and they look for plankton — very small animals that swim up to the top of the ocean every evening to find food.

Plankton are food for fish like the lantern fish. The lantern fish stays down in the deep ocean in the day, but when the sun goes down it swims to the top of the ocean. It feeds near the top of the ocean at night, and then swims back down before morning.

The whitetip reef shark also comes out at night. It stays in caves down in the deep ocean in the day, and doesn’t move very much. Then at night, it comes out to hunt for fish and octopuses.
Minibeasts

Many minibeasts, like moths and spiders, come out at night. Minibeasts come out at night because there are not so many predators that hunt and eat them. Slugs and snails look for food at night because the sun can dry them out in the day.

Moths are insects. They have a body that’s good for living at night. They have special antennae on their head. These help them to look for food and to find their way in the dark. Moths also have patterns on their wings that help them to hide in trees in the day.

Tarantulas are spiders. They hunt for their prey at night. Special hairs on their body help them to feel when another animal is near. They hide, and then they jump on their prey, and put poison in its body.

Nocturnal fireflies make lights in their body that turn on and off at night. They use these lights to communicate.
Desert Animals

In many deserts, it’s very hot in the day, so many animals only come out at night. The fennec fox lives in the Sahara Desert in Africa. It stays in a burrow in the sand in the day, and at night it hunts for mice, lizards, and insects. It’s the smallest fox in the world, but it has very big ears, so it can easily hear its prey in the dark.

Kangaroo rats don’t need to drink! They get water from the seeds that they eat.

Kangaroo rats live in deserts in North America. At night, they jump around and find seeds. They keep seeds in their mouth, and then they put them in their burrow.

Desert scorpions stay out of the sun in the day. At night, they come out to feed on minibeasts. Scorpions can’t see well, but they have special hairs on their legs so that they can feel when prey is near. They kill their prey with a sting from their tail.
African Animals

There are many nocturnal animals in Africa. Many big cats, like leopards, hunt for food at night. It's usually easier to catch prey when it's dark, and when it's cooler, too.

Big cats see very well, and they have a very good sense of hearing and smell, so they are good night hunters. Their eyes have a special part called the tapetum. The tapetum reflects light so that the cats can see in the dark. It can make their eyes glow.

Aardvarks can't see very well, but they have a big nose and big ears that they use to find ant nests at night. They dig up the nests and catch the ants on their sticky tongue.

Hippos come out at night to eat grass. In the day, they stay in water because their skin needs to be wet and cool.

Bushbabies hunt for food at night. They use their big eyes to look in trees for insects, flowers, seeds, and eggs.
Flamingoes sleep at night, standing on one leg! They have special ankles that keep their legs straight so that they don’t fall down.

Walruses live in the Arctic. It’s light all night in the summer there. Walruses sleep on land, on ice, or in water. They can sleep for up to 19 hours. Walruses have special pouches on their body. When they sleep in water, they put lots of air in the pouches, to keep their head above the water.

At night, when many animals are looking for food, others are asleep, just like you! In the evening, baboons climb up cliffs or into the tops of trees, and they sleep for about ten hours every night. In these high places, they know that they are safe from predators.
Noises at Night

It’s hard to see at night, so animals often use noises to communicate. Owls call to each other, and lions roar if predators come near their babies. When deer are in danger, they try to communicate with other deer. They make noises in their nose, and they hit the ground with their feet.

Most birds do not sing at night, but the male nightingale sings a beautiful song when it’s looking for a female. Some insects make a lot of noise at night, too. The grasshopper makes noises with its wings and legs.

The Tasmanian devil is a small animal that comes out to hunt for food in the dark. When it’s scared or it thinks that another animal is going to take its food, it makes terrible noises.

When howler monkeys call to each other at night, you can hear them from about 5 kilometers away!

Go to pages 40-41 for activities.
Traveling at Night

Every year, many types of birds migrate - they move from one place to another to live. These birds usually only come out in the day, but when they migrate, they travel at night. This is because they are safer from predators, and they can fly for longer because it’s cooler. Also, they feed in the day, and then they have lots of energy to fly at night when they are full of food.

Green turtles are not usually nocturnal, but they travel at night when they are ready to lay their eggs. They swim to a beach and come out of the ocean. They wait until night when it’s cooler. Then they move up the beach and lay their eggs in the sand.

When the baby turtles come out of the eggs, they dig their way out of the sand and they go to the ocean. The baby turtles do this at night when it’s cooler, and when there are not so many predators.

There’s a lot happening at night! All around the world, millions of animals are moving around, hunting for food, and traveling from one place to another.
1 Life at Night

1 Complete the chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In the Day</th>
<th>At Night</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dark</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hotter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nocturnal animals don’t sleep</td>
<td>dark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>colder</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nocturnal animals sleep</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>light</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 Match. Then write complete sentences.

- armadillos
- tigers
- rabbits
- opossums

at night
in the morning and in the evening
at night
in the day and at night

3 Write true or false.

1. The armadillo sleeps for less than 6 hours in the day.  
   - false

2. The tiger only comes out at night.  
   - __________

3. The rabbit is a nocturnal animal.  
   - __________

4. Some animals are nocturnal because there are not so many predators at night.  
   - __________

4 Complete the sentences.

- predator
- nocturnal
- evening
- hides

1. The opossum __________ and goes to sleep in the day.

2. The opossum and the armadillo are __________ animals.

3. The rabbit usually comes out in the morning and in the __________.

4. A __________ is an animal that wants to hunt and eat another animal.

5 Circle the correct words.

Many animals are nocturnal because ...  

1. at night there are more / not so many predators.

2. at night there’s more / less food.

3. in the day, sometimes it’s too cold / hot.
2 Special Senses

1 Match. Then write complete sentences.

- raccoons
- foxes
- tarsiers
- foxes
- big ears
- big noses
- long fingers
- hearing
- smell
- touch
- sight

1 Raccoons have long fingers and a good sense of touch.

3 Circle the correct words.
1 The five main senses are seeing, hearing, touch, smell, and taste / eating.
2 A fox can smell mice through up to 12 / 21 centimeters of snow.
3 Tarsiers / Raccoons like to eat fish and frogs.
4 Many nocturnal animals have very small / big eyes.
5 Their big eyes let in lots of light / air.
6 A tarsier’s eye is bigger than its head / brain.

4 Order the words.
1 special / nocturnal / senses. / have / animals / Many

Many nocturnal animals have special senses.

2 dark. / usually / the / hunt / Wild / in / dogs

3 food. / their / fingers / use / to / Raccoons / find

4 better / people. / see / animals / can / Nocturnal / than

5 well / in / see / Tarsiers / can / dark. / the
# Flying at Night

1. **Complete the chart.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Owls</th>
<th>Bats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food:</strong></td>
<td>rabbits, mice, and other small animals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Where they stay in the day:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special senses:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Another amazing fact:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. **Write owl or bat.**

1. It’s a mammal.  
   __________  
2. It’s a bird.  
   __________  
3. It can fly very quietly because it has soft feathers on its wings.  
   __________  
4. It has a special sense called echolocation.  
   __________  
5. It hangs upside down in the day.  
   __________

3. **Write the words.**

   sharp claws  
   soft feathers  
   wing  
   prey

   1. __________  
   2. __________  
   3. __________  
   4. __________

4. **Answer the questions.**

1. What do owls listen for when they are hunting?
   They listen for little noises from their prey.

2. How do they catch their prey?
   __________

3. Why can owls fly very quietly?
   __________

4. What special sense helps bats to find food?
   __________

5. What do echoes tell bats?
   __________
1 Match. Then write sentences.

Plankton are
Lantern fish are
Whitetip reef sharks are

fish that stay in caves in the day.
small animals that are food for fish.
fish that have lights on their body when they swim.

1 ____________________________________________
2 ____________________________________________
3 ____________________________________________

2 Correct the sentences.

1 Plankton are very big animals.
   Plankton are very small animals.

2 They swim down to the deep ocean at night.

3 Lantern fish stay at the top of the ocean in the day.

4 In the day, the whitetip reef shark feeds in caves.

3 Complete the sentences.

evening lights day night

1 The whitetip reef shark comes out at ________.
2 Plankton swim up to the top of the ocean every ________.
3 The lantern fish stays down in the deep ocean in the ________.
4 The lantern fish has ________ on its body when it swims.

4 Answer the questions.

1 What do whitetip reef sharks eat?

2 Why do many fish swim up to the top of the ocean at night?

3 What do lantern fish eat?

4 Where do lantern fish feed at night?

5 What does the whitetip reef shark do at night?
1 Write the minibeasts. Then write the numbers.
1 toмh moth 4 lаsìn
2 driпse 5 реffìly
3 глus

2 Complete the sentences.
patterns lights antennae poison sun hairs

1 Slugs and snails hunt for food at night so that they do not dry out in the ________.
2 Moths have special ________ that help them to find their way in the dark.
3 Moths have ________ on their wings that help them to hide.
4 Tarantulas have special ________ on their body.
5 Tarantulas put ________ into the body of their prey to kill it.
6 Fireflies make ________ in their body.

3 Write about moths and tarantulas.
Three things that I read about moths on page 12:
1 __________________________
2 __________________________
3 __________________________
Another thing that I know about moths:
______________________________________________

Three things that I read about tarantulas on page 13:
1 __________________________
2 __________________________
3 __________________________
Another thing that I know about tarantulas:
______________________________________________

4 Answer the questions.
1 Why do many minibeasts come out at night?
______________________________________________
2 What do moths’ antennae do?
______________________________________________
3 What helps moths to hide in trees in the day?
______________________________________________
4 When do tarantulas hunt for their prey?
______________________________________________
6 Desert Animals

1 Write the words.
1 __________________
2 __________________
3 __________________
4 __________________
5 __________________
6 __________________

tail  fennec fox  legs
kangaroo rat  scorpion  ears

2 Write true or false.
1 In the desert, many animals only come out in the day because it’s too cold at night. _______
2 The fennec fox lives in the Sahara Desert in Africa. _______
3 Kangaroo rats find seeds and they keep them in their mouth. _______
4 Scorpions feed on minibeasts. _______
5 Scorpions can see very well. _______
6 In the desert, scorpions stay out of the sun in the day. _______

3 Answer the questions.
1 Where does the fennec fox stay in the day? __________________________________________
2 What does the fennec fox hunt for at night? __________________________________________
3 What do kangaroo rats do with the seeds that they find? ______________________________
4 How do scorpions kill their prey? ____________________________________________________

4 Complete the sentences. Then match.
see  seeds  ears  water  hairs  smallest

1 It eats _______.
2 It has special _______ on its legs.
3 It’s the _______ fox in the world.
4 It has very big _______.
5 It gets _______ from seeds.
6 It can’t _______ well.
1 Write the words.

leopard  aardvark  hippo  bushbaby

1 __________  2 __________

3 __________  4 __________

2 Find and write the words from pages 16–17.

1 two big things that aardvarks have
   __________ ears __________
2 three very good senses that big cats have
   __________ __________ __________
3 four things that bushbabies eat
   __________ __________ __________ __________

3 Complete the sentences.

tongue  trees  grass  tapetum  insects  cooler

1 Big cats hunt for food at night because it’s __________.

2 An aardvark can eat 50,000 __________ in one night.

3 Hippos come out at night to eat __________.

4 Bushbabies hunt for food in __________.

5 Aardvarks have a sticky __________.

6 Cats can see in the dark because their eyes have a special part called the __________.

4 Complete the puzzle.

1 an animal with big eyes that looks for food in trees
2 an animal that lives in water in the day and comes out at night
3 an animal with big ears and a big nose that hunts for insects at night
4 a big cat that hunts at night
5 an aardvark’s favorite food
Animals Asleep

1 Match. Then write complete sentences.

How does it sleep?

baboon on cliffs or in the tops of trees
flamingo with its tusks over pieces of ice
walrus standing on one leg

1 A baboon sleeps on cliffs or in the tops of trees.
2 ________________________________
3 ________________________________

2 Circle the correct words.

1 Baboons sleep for about two / ten hours every night.
2 Flamingoes have special tusks / ankles that keep their legs straight.
3 Walruses can sleep for up to nine / nineteen hours.
4 Walruses put water / air in their pouches.
5 Walruses put their tusks / legs over big pieces of ice.

3 Answer the questions.

1 Why do baboons sleep in high places?
2 How do flamingoes sleep at night?
3 What do flamingoes have that keep their legs straight?
4 Where do walruses sleep?
5 How do walruses keep their head above water when they sleep?
6 Why don’t walruses move away when they sleep in water?

4 Draw an animal asleep and write about how it sleeps.

This animal is called
________________________
________________________
________________________
Noises at Night

1. Find and write the animals.
   1. owl
   2. l
   3. d
   4. n
   5. g
   6. Tasmanian
   7. monkey

2. Order the words.
   1. other / Owls / each / call / night. / at / to
   2. do / Most / at / not / night. / sing / birds
   3. a / The / sings / male / female. / nightingale / for
   4. noises. / Tasmanian / makes / devil / The / terrible

3. Correct the sentences.
   1. A deer hits the ground with its nose when it’s in danger.
   2. A grasshopper makes noises with its wings and mouth.
   3. A Tasmanian devil is a big animal that hunts for food in the dark.
   4. You can hear howler monkeys from about 10 kilometers away.

4. Match. Then write complete sentences.

   - deer
   - nightingales
   - Tasmanian devils
   - sing
   - make noises in their nose
   - make terrible noises
   - looking for a female in danger
   - scared

1. Deer make noises in their nose when they are in danger.
2. ________________________________
3. ________________________________
10 Traveling at Night

Read pages 22–23.

1 Write true or false.

1 Many birds that usually come out in the day migrate at night. _____

2 Migrating is when animals move from one place to another to live. _____

3 Green turtles usually lay their eggs in the day. _____

4 Baby turtles go to the ocean after they come out of the eggs. _____

2 Complete the sentences. Then write the numbers.

eggs ocean beach baby

1 The green turtle moves up the beach.

2 It lays its ________ in the sand.

3 The ________ turtles dig their way out of the sand.

4 They go to the ________.

3 Answer the questions.

1 Why do birds migrate at night?

________________________________________

2 Are green turtles nocturnal?

________________________________________

3 Where do green turtles lay their eggs?

________________________________________

4 Why do baby turtles move down to the ocean at night?

________________________________________

4 Find and write the animals in the chart.

scorpion roar dog aardvark howl bufennaec fossil
greenturtle uhippo tobatu plankton

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Desert Animals</th>
<th>scorpion</th>
<th>__________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ocean Animals</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Animals</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animals That Fly at Night</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>__________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nocturnal Animals

1. Complete the chart for this nocturnal animal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>fennec fox</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What it looks like:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where it lives:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What it does in the day:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What it does at night:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interesting fact:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Choose another nocturnal animal. Complete the chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What it looks like:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where it lives:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What it does in the day:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What it does at night:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interesting fact:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Make a poster. Write sentences about the nocturnal animal and add pictures. Display your poster.

A Walk at Night

1. Go for a short walk at night with an adult, or look outside your home at night.

2. Write notes about what you saw and heard.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Animals that I saw:</th>
<th>Animal noises that I heard:</th>
<th>What the animals were doing:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3. Write sentences about your walk at night.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
**Oxford Read and Discover**

Series Editor: Hazel Geatches  •  CLIL Adviser: John Clegg

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Area Level</th>
<th>The World of Science &amp; Technology</th>
<th>The Natural World</th>
<th>The World of Arts &amp; Social Studies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 600 headwords</td>
<td>How We Make Products&lt;br&gt;Sound and Music&lt;br&gt;Super Structures&lt;br&gt;Your Five Senses</td>
<td>Amazing Minibeasts&lt;br&gt;Animals in the Air&lt;br&gt;Life in Rainforests&lt;br&gt;Wonderful Water</td>
<td>Festivals Around the World&lt;br&gt;Free Time Around the World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 750 headwords</td>
<td>All About Plants&lt;br&gt;How to Stay Healthy&lt;br&gt;Machines Then and Now&lt;br&gt;Why We Recycle</td>
<td>All About Desert Life&lt;br&gt;All About Ocean Life&lt;br&gt;Animals at Night&lt;br&gt;Incredible Earth</td>
<td>Animals in Art&lt;br&gt;Wonders of the Past</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 900 headwords</td>
<td>Materials to Products&lt;br&gt;Medicine Then and Now&lt;br&gt;Transportation Then and Now&lt;br&gt;Wild Weather</td>
<td>All About Islands&lt;br&gt;Animal Life Cycles&lt;br&gt;Exploring Our World&lt;br&gt;Great Migrations</td>
<td>Homes Around the World&lt;br&gt;Our World in Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 1,050 headwords</td>
<td>Cells and Microbes&lt;br&gt;Clothes Then and Now&lt;br&gt;Incredible Energy&lt;br&gt;Your Amazing Body</td>
<td>All About Space&lt;br&gt;Caring for Our Planet&lt;br&gt;Earth Then and Now&lt;br&gt;Wonderful Ecosystems</td>
<td>Helping Around the World&lt;br&gt;Food Around the World</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For younger students, **Dolphin Readers** Levels Starter, 1, and 2 are available.