

LO: To answer comprehension questions independently.

ALL ABOUT BARN OWLS

Some barn owls are nocturnal, but they can also be seen at sunset or early in the morning. They have a white, heart-shaped face and a white chest with small brown spots. Their back is tawney, marked with black and white spots. They have lop-sided ears which help them hear even the tiniest of sounds. Their feathers are super soft, helping them to fly silently, but they are not waterproof and get soaked when it rains. They are a similar in size to a small cat.

Fascinating Facts

Barn owls make a screeching noise, not a hoot like a tawny owl.

Baby owls are called owlets.



Answer in full sentences.

1 What does a barn owl look like?

1

2 What noise do barn owls make?

1

Where do barn owls live?

Barn owls live in a range of habitats including farm buildings, dovecotes, church towers, hollow trees, and cliff sites. Some owls prefer to live in the open grasslands, farmlands and woodlands that are no more than 2,000 metres high. Some of these species are also found along the edges of woods.

3 List **three** places that barn owls can live.

3

What do barn owls eat?

Barn owls are birds of prey, they eat mainly small mammals like voles, shrews, rats and mice. Sometimes they will eat birds, insects and even frogs. On average, a wild barn owl eats about 4 small mammals per night, that's 1460 per year. They often swallow their food whole, then they cough up the fur and bone as an owl **pellet**. Barn owls have excellent hearing and can see animals moving in the dark of the night.

4 List **four** things a barn owl might eat.

2

5 How many small mammals will a barn owl eat in a year?

1

6 What helps a barn owl hunt at night?

2

7 What is an owl **pellet**?

1

Staying Safe

If barn owls feel threatened, they will squint their eyes, spread their wings, and sway their head back and forth, while hissing. If this does not stop their attacker, the barn owl will lie on its back and protect itself with its sharp talons.

8 What do barn owls do when they feel threatened?

1