Owls

Name _____ Date _____

Nonfiction | 160 words | Key details and word meanings

I read it: ☆ to myself ☆ to a grown-up ☆ to a friend

1. Owls are birds of **prey,** which means they hunt other animals for food. Most owls hunt at night. They are nocturnal, so they sleep during the day and wake up when the sun goes down.

2. An owl's eyes are very large, and they help it see in **dim** light. But an owl cannot move its eyes the way you can. Instead, it turns its whole head. Some owls can turn their heads about three-quarters of the way around!

3. Owls also have amazing hearing. Many owls have one ear a little higher than the other. This helps them tell exactly where a sound is coming from, even under snow. Their soft, fringed feathers let them fly almost silently, so mice and other small animals do not hear them coming.

4. Owls swallow small **prey** whole. Later, they cough up the bones and fur they cannot **digest** in a small bundle called a pellet. Scientists study pellets to learn what owls eat.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Owls: questions

Name _____ Date _____

I can find answers in the text. Look back at the text to check.

1 Circle the best answer

1. What does nocturnal mean?

(a) awake at night (b) living in water (c) awake during the day

2. Why does an owl turn its whole head?

(a) its neck is stiff (b) it cannot move its eyes (c) it is looking for its nest

3. What is an owl pellet?

(a) a bundle of bones and fur (b) a soft feather (c) an owl egg

2 True or false? Circle one.

Owls can move their eyes the way people do.	True	False
Soft feathers help owls fly quietly.	True	False
Scientists study pellets to learn what owls eat.	True	False

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Owls: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

1 Match each word to its meaning. Draw a line.

prey	○	○ an animal that is hunted for food
dim	○	○ break down food in the body
digest	○	○ not bright

2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

How do an owl's body parts help it hunt at night? Give two examples.

3 Draw and label something you learned.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: Owls

1 Circle the best answer

1. a) awake at night
2. b) it cannot move its eyes
3. a) a bundle of bones and fur

2 True or false

False: Owls can move their eyes the way people do.

True: Soft feathers help owls fly quietly.

True: Scientists study pellets to learn what owls eat.

3 Word meanings

prey: an animal that is hunted for food

dim: not bright

digest: break down food in the body

4 Written answer (sample)

Its big eyes help it see in dim light, its ears help it find sounds, and its soft feathers let it fly quietly.

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