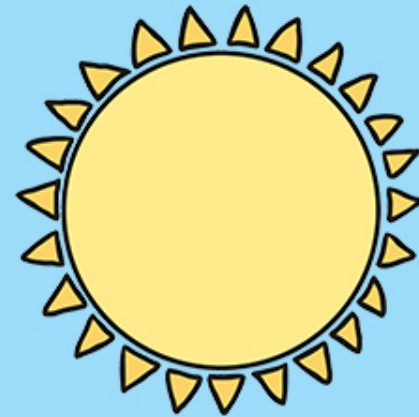


# Nocturnal and Diurnal Animals



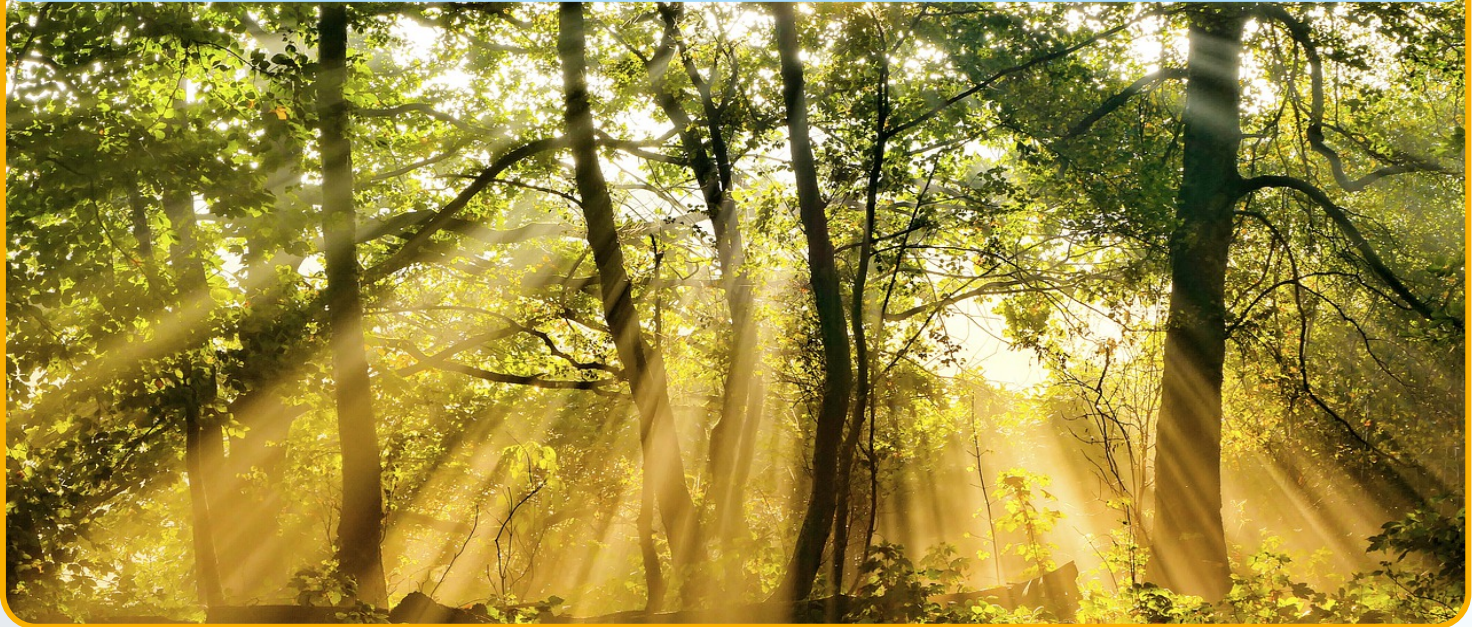
twinkl



# Awake during the Day

Some animals are awake during the day.  
They hunt, eat and move during daylight hours.

Can you think of any animals that are awake during the day?



# Awake during the Day

Here are some animals you might have spotted during the day.



mallard duck



butterfly



blue tit



squirrel



human



# Diurnal Animals

Animals that are awake during the day are called **diurnal**.  
What do you think diurnal animals do at night-time?



Diurnal animals sleep  
at night-time.



That includes humans!

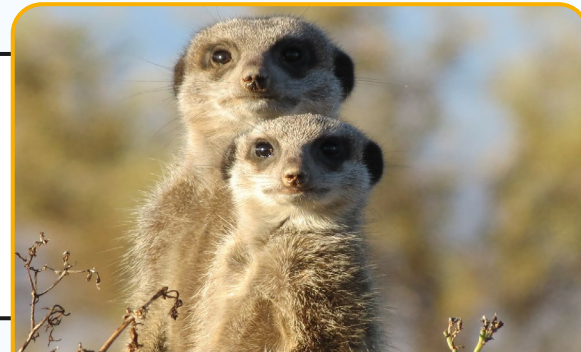
# Diurnal Animals

Diurnal animals are best suited to being awake during the day. Many diurnal animals need light to help them see. This means that they can see and find food to eat.



Bees look for the brightly coloured flowers that contain the nectar they eat.

Being able to see also means that they can spot predators that might want to eat them.



Meerkats look out for danger.

Being diurnal helps these animals to **survive**.

# Awake at Night

Some animals come out at night.  
They hunt, eat and move during night-time hours.

Can you think of any animals that are awake during the night?



# Awake at Night

Here are some animals you might have noticed at night-time.



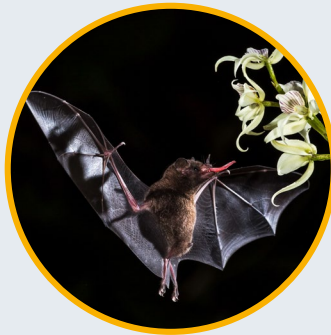
mouse



moth



hedgehog



bat



fox



# Nocturnal Animals

Animals that are awake at night-time are called **nocturnal**.  
When do you think these animals sleep?

Nocturnal animals sleep during the daytime.





# Nocturnal Animals

Why might being awake at night help some animals to **survive**?

Some animals sleep or stay undercover during the day to avoid getting too hot. It is usually cooler when the sun has gone down.



Fennec foxes live in hot, desert areas like the Sahara in North Africa.

They sleep during the day to avoid the heat.

This helps the fennec fox to stay alive.

# Nocturnal Animals

Why might being awake at night help some animals to **survive**?

Some animals come out at night to try to avoid being caught and eaten by **predators**.



Mice are active when there is less light. This helps them avoid being spotted.

Mice don't have very good eyesight so they use touch and smell to help them find food.

# Nocturnal Animals

Why might being awake at night help some animals to **survive**?

Some **predators** also come out at night. Hunting at night means there are fewer animals hunting for the same **prey**.



Bats hunt for insects at night to avoid hunting at the same time as lots of other animals that eat insects, like birds.

This helps them to get the food they need to survive.



# Amazing Adaptations

Nocturnal animals often have special features that help them to survive at night.



**barn owl**

## Eyesight

At night, it is dark. Lots of animals (like humans) find it hard to see in the dark.

Nocturnal animals often have big eyes that let more light in.

Some nocturnal animals have night vision! This means that they can see in the dark but not in colour.

# Amazing Adaptations



possum

## Hearing

Many nocturnal animals have excellent hearing.

Some have big cupped ears to capture more sound.

They can often move each ear in different directions to help them work out where a sound is coming from.

Can you do this?

# Amazing Adaptations



bat

## Echolocation

Some animals, like bats, use echolocation to help them work out where things are.

They send out a sound and the sound that comes back tells them how close or far away something is.

This is a handy way to find something when there is no light to help you see!



# Amazing Adaptations



fox

## Smell

Another way to find food without using sight is to use your nose.

Some nocturnal animals have a super sense of smell.

Foxes can smell and track down food that is miles away from them.

Could you smell a snack that was in another room? Or along the street? Or in a different town?

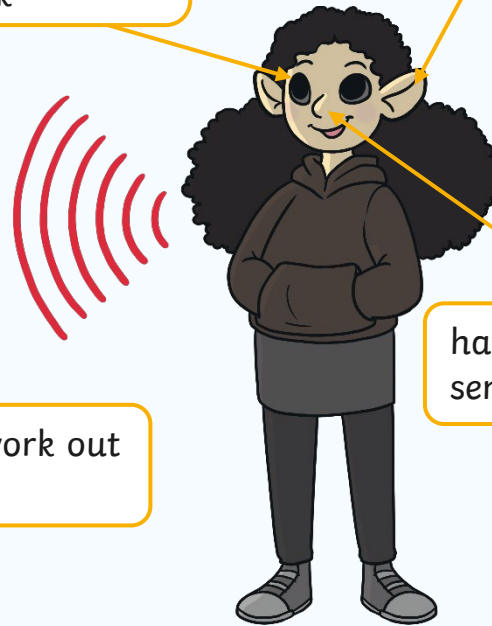
# Nocturnal Humans?

Humans are **diurnal**.  
If humans were **nocturnal**, how might they be different?  
Think about the special features that nocturnal animals have.

Nocturnal humans might...

- have bigger eyes
- be able to see in the dark

- have big, cupped ears
- be able to move their ears



use echolocation to work out where things are

have an excellent sense of smell

# Glossary

Can you remember what each of these words means?

**diurnal**

**nocturnal**

**prey**

**predator**

**survive**

**adaptation**



# Glossary

**diurnal** – active during the day, asleep at night

**nocturnal** – active at night, asleep during the day

**prey** – an animal that is eaten by other animals

**predator** – an animal that eats other animals

**survive** – stay alive

**adaptation** – a special feature that helps an animal to survive in its habitat

