

Name:

Date:

Adaptations & Habitats – Activity 3

BRILLIANT BARN OWLS

Barns owls might look cute, but they are deadly _____. They are _____ predators, meaning they usually come out at night. They have lots of special features, or adaptations, that help them hunt at night-time. Their _____ is so good they can see a small mouse in the dark from 3m away! However, they can't roll their eyes or move them side to side; in fact, they can't move them at all. Instead they move their _____. They can twist their neck 270° so they can see all around them! Whilst this is impressive, a barn owl's _____ is even better than their eyesight. They can hear a mouse's heartbeat up to 9m away! Their ears are hidden in the disc feathers on their face. They are slightly different sizes and are _____, with one ear by the eye and the other one by the beak. It may seem odd, but this enables the owls to hear from above and below and helps them figure out where their _____ is.

It is important for the owls themselves to be quiet when hunting so they can sneak up on their prey. Barn owls have special _____ on their wings that muffle sound, and a large _____ so they can glide rather than flap their wings. This gives them almost _____ flight and they can catch their prey in their sharp _____ without ever being heard!

Their colouring also helps when catching prey. It was recently discovered that the stark _____ colour of a barn owl shocks small rodents, so they stay still for longer, giving the owl more time to catch them. It's a bit like seeing a _____!



Nocturnal

Hearing

Ghost

Lopsided

Eyesight

Feathers

Predators

Head

Wingspan

Prey

Talons

Silent

White

