

Nocturnal Animals

Think and Respond: Without any additional resources, answer the following questions to the best of your ability.



1. Are you diurnal or nocturnal? If you're not sure what diurnal means, think about what nocturnal means and take an educated guess at the definition of diurnal.
2. Name some nocturnal animals. Think about some nighttime animals you see outside or on tv.
3. Think about the nocturnal animals that you wrote down. What sorts of adaptations do they have? If you're stuck, pretend you are nocturnal, what adaptations would you need to survive?
4. What are some advantages of being nocturnal?
5. How does human activity affect some nocturnal animals?



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Read and Respond Again: Now, use the following resources to answer these questions in more detail.

- <https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/article/scientists-say-nocturnal-and-diurnal>
- <https://www.scienceabc.com/nature/animals/how-do-nocturnal-animals-hunt-their-prey.html>
- <https://www.earth.com/earthpedia-articles/why-are-some-animals-nocturnal/>
- https://www.nps.gov/articles/nocturnal_earthnight.htm
- <https://www.darksky.org/light-pollution/wildlife/>
- <http://nsrangers.tripod.com/nocturnal.htm>

1. Are you diurnal or nocturnal?
2. What are some nocturnal animals?
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Answer Key



1. Most of us are **diurnal**. Meaning that we are active during the day and sleep at night. Some people who work long overnight shifts may consider themselves nocturnal because they get their work done at night.
2. What are some nocturnal animals?
 - a. Foxes
 - b. Opossum
 - c. Bats
 - d. Moths
 - e. Racoons
 - f. Skunks
 - g. Owls
 - h. Coyotes
 - i. Fireflies
3. What are some adaptations of nocturnal animals?
 - a. Foxes – Impressive eyesight at night
 - b. Opossum – Heightened sense of smell
 - c. Bats – Echolocation to help them find food at night
 - d. Moths – Nighttime navigation by use of the night sky
 - e. Racoons – Impressive eyesight at night
 - f. Skunks – Dark fur to help them blend in
 - g. Owls – Large eyes to help them see better in the dark
 - h. Coyotes – Heightened sense of smell
 - i. Fireflies – Produce their own light
4. What are some advantages of being nocturnal?
 - a. Less competition
 - b. Fewer predators
 - c. Blending into the darkness so they are less detectable
 - d. Stay cool at night
5. How does human activity affect some nocturnal animals?
 - a. Light pollution from humans can harm and confuse nocturnal animals
 - b. High amounts of human activity during the day can encourage diurnal animals to be more active during the nighttime.