

## Nocturnal Examples

**Prompt: Some animals are awake at night, and so they have special abilities. Describe the abilities of these animals, and why these are important. Cite evidence from the texts.**

### Example A:

Animals who are awake at night have special abilities. Owls, bats and some snakes have special abilities to survive. Owls can see well at night so they can sneak up on prey that cannot see them as well. Bats use echolocation to find food. The echoes bounce off of the prey and back to the bat so they can find their food. Pit vipers, which are snakes, use pits on their face to sense heat from their prey. This means a snake can stay hidden because it does not need to use its eyes to find prey. These are the abilities that some nocturnal animals have which help them to hunt at night so they can to survive.

### Example B:

Nocturnal animals have special abilities in the areas of sight, hearing and heat sense. First, owls can see clearly in the dark. Owls hunt mice and small animals in the dark so they need to be able to see well to do this, or they won't catch their food. Next, a bat makes a high-pitched noise that bounces back so they can hear the echo. This lets bats know where to find insects at night. These sounds can even tell a bat how big the insect is and if it furry so it will know if it should try to catch and eat it without needing to see it! Last, some snakes can sense heat. In pit vipers, heat sensors are in holes called pits in their faces. The pits help snakes find prey in the dark. They catch frogs and other small animals by sensing their warmth instead of by seeing them so they can stay hidden from their prey. These are the abilities animals use at night.

### Example C:

When the sun sets, some animals come awake. These animals are nocturnal, which means active at night and sleep during daytime. The texts, "Awake After Dark" and "Night Life" describe how animals such as owls, bats, opossums and snakes have special abilities so they can be nocturnal. These are important so they can find prey in the dark with these special adaptations.

First, owls have adaptations so they can see prey at nighttime. They are great at hearing at night too. Feathers on the edge of their wings are soft. They help owls fly quietly. Since they can see well, hear well and move quietly, they can sneak up on prey. Owls hunt mice and small animals in the dark. If they did not have these special adaptations, they would not be able to catch their food.

Next, most bats eat insects. They have a special adaptation that helps them hunt. The bat makes a high-pitched noise called echolocation. The sound sounds like a high-pitched scream, but only the bat hears it. The echo bounces off insects and back to the bat. It lets bats know where to find insects at night when it is dark. These sounds can even tell a bat how big the insect is and if it furry! If a bat tried to hunt for food during the day, it might be seen so it is important that it has this special sense of hearing because it needs to hunt at night under the cover of darkness.

Last, pit vipers are snakes. Their adaptation is that they can sense heat of other animals. The heat sensors are in holes called pits in their faces. The pits help snakes find prey in the dark when they cannot see well because there is no sun.

They catch frogs and other small animals by sense their warmth. This is important because it means that a snake can stay fully hidden. It does not need to use its eyes to catch prey.

That is how animals use adaptations to hunt prey at night. Without these adaptations, they would not be able to survive. They use these adaptations to catch their prey that they eat, and everyone needs food to survive.

#### **Example D:**

In the texts, "Awake After Dark" and "Night Life", the authors show how animals have special abilities so they can be nocturnal. These abilities relate to our five senses. Some of the five sense are stronger in these animals than they are in humans such as vision, hearing and smell. This is important so they can find prey in the dark with these special abilities.

First, some nocturnal animals have better vision. Owls, who are nocturnal, have large eyes and great eyesight. They can turn their heads almost all the way around so they can see behind themselves without even needing to move. If they stay still, animals they would eat will not know they are there. They have big eyeballs shaped like tubes so they let in more moon light. They can also hear sounds from far away. This shows how well suited they are to hunting at night. It is important that they see better so they can catch food.

Next, some creatures can hear well. For example, a bat makes a high-pitched noise called echolocation. The sound sounds like a high-pitched scream, but only the bat has strong enough hearing to hear it. The echo bounces off insects and back to the bat. It lets bats know where to find insects at night when it is dark. If a bat tried to hunt for food during the day, prey might see it. Therefore, it is important that it has this special sense of hearing because it needs to hunt at night under the cover of darkness.

Last, certain animals can smell better than others can. An opossum has a long nose that is more sensitive than most creatures' noses. This adaptation is important so it knows where to look for food. It can find garbage or dead animals that it can eat easily by hunting with its nose. It can smell fruit, eggs or bugs from far away in the dark.

That is how animals use adaptations to hunt prey at night. Without these adaptations, they would not be able to survive. They use these adaptations to catch their prey that they eat, and everyone needs food to survive.