

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.

Awake After Dark

Some creatures come out after dark.

Some animals are nocturnal so they sleep during the day. These animals have qualities that make nightlife better for them.

Bats Make Sounds



How does a bat find food in the dark? The bat makes sounds. The sounds bounce off an insect, and return to the bat. That lets the bat know where to find the insect and even how big it is.

Opossums

Opossums have long, sensitive noses. From far, Opossum noses sniff food in garbage or dead animals. Opossums eat almost anything they smell, including fruit, eggs, worms and bugs.

Owls

Owls have large eyes and see well. An owl's eyes do not move. It must turn its head to see in any other direction. Its head can turn almost all the way around! Owls also have great eyesight. Their big eyeballs let in more light. Their soft feathers makes their flight very quiet.

From ReadWorks.com and Highlights by Lorilee Evans. Dec2007, Vol. 62 Issue 12, p22-23. 2p.

Night Life

When the sun goes down, some animals wake up! They are nocturnal, which means they are active at night when we are asleep.

Silent Flight

Owls have the best night vision of any creature on Earth. Their eyes are so big that they cannot move in the sockets. Their big ears make let them hear well and from far away. The feathers on the edge of their wings are soft. That lets owls fly quietly to hunt mice and small creatures.



Bouncing Sounds

A long-eared bat flies through the dark forest, swerving to avoid branches, then chases a moth. It is too dark for the bat to see. How does it find its food in the dark? It uses its ears!

Bats use a sonar system called echolocation to make high-pitched sounds like screams that people cannot hear. If an insect is nearby, the sound waves bounce off it and travel back to the bat, creating an echo that the bat can hear. The bat can tell how far away the insect is, the direction it is flying, how big it is even whether it is soft and furry!

Sensing Heat

Pit vipers are snakes. They have developed special organs of heat reception that help them to sense warm-blooded animals that they eat. These heat sensor organs consist of pits or holes, just under their noses that are covered with a temperature-sensitive membrane so they feel heat well. Pit vipers eat warm frogs and other small animals.

Plant Naps

Most bats nap in caves or trees. One kind snoozes inside the leaves of a bug-eating plant! The plant's leaves are shaped like cups. They trap bugs inside. The bat stays hidden from predators there. The bat leaves behind something that helps the plant --poop. It becomes food for the plant.