YEAR 4 · READING COMPREHENSION

Non-Fiction Text about Animals

Name: _____ Date: _____

Read the factual text, then answer the questions. Use information from the text to help you.

The Barn Owl

Barn owls are found in many parts of the UK. They often hunt over open fields and grassland, and may roost in quiet places such as barns, old buildings or hollow trees. A roost is a place where an animal rests.

Barn owls are nocturnal. They rest during daylight and hunt after dark. Their heart-shaped faces gather sounds and guide them towards their ears. A barn owl can hear the rustle of a small animal moving beneath grass, even when it cannot see it.

A barn owl flies low over fields while hunting. The edges of its flight feathers are fringed, and its soft feathers help to muffle the sound of air moving over its wings. This quiet flight helps the owl surprise its prey. Voles, shrews and mice are among its favourite foods.

After a meal, an owl cannot digest everything it swallows. It later coughs up a small pellet containing things such as fur and bones.

Answer the questions

Write on the lines.

1. When do barn owls usually hunt?

2. Name two places where a barn owl may roost.

3. How does the owl’s heart-shaped face help it find small animals?

4. What helps a barn owl fly quietly?

5. Name two small mammals that barn owls eat.

6. The text says barn owls are *nocturnal*. What does *nocturnal* mean?

7. What is an owl pellet made of, and when does the owl bring one up?