



WEEK 1: OWLS

NATURE WALK

Go for an evening walk through the woods and listen and look out for owls and bats. Owls are more easily spotted at dawn and dusk as their nocturnal animals. A moonlit night is always a wonderful time for owling. Before you head out on your walk, why not listen to some owl calls on the internet so you know what to listen out for. It might be handy to take some binoculars with you as well.

RECIPES TO TRY

Owl Looking Pancakes

Why not decorate your pancakes to look like owls? Using slices of banana to create some eyes with a blueberry in the middle for the pupils. Then slice some strawberries in half to make the wings.

Garden Jobs

Plant spring flowering bulbs now in your flower garden. Daffodils and Crocus flowers look beautiful in early spring.

Provision

Set up a bird provocation with a collection of bird information books and stories, feathers, photos of owls and examples of birds' nests.

Provide a tray for children to make marks in with the feathers.

Set up a British woodland small world scene with pine cones, acorns, rocks, mosses, foxes, deer, squirrels, hedgehogs, badgers, mice and rabbits.

Send home bird spotter sheets so that children can join in with this when not in the setting and create home-setting links.

Collect

Feathers

Book Ideas

Owl babies by Martin Waddell
RSPB Birds of Britain and Europe
National Trust: Out and About Bird Spotter - A children's guide to over 100 different birds
RSPB My First Book of Garden Birds
My First Book of Birds
The Big Book of Birds by Yuval Zommer





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FACT SHEET

How many owls?

There are over 200 different types of owl around the world. There are 5 species of owl in the Britain; Barn owl, Tawny owl, Little owl, Short-eared owl and Long-eared owl. The numbers of these beautiful birds are decreasing with the Barn Owl in particular getting spotted less and less.

One cause is due to over farming and less rough grassland to hunt food in.



What do Owls like to eat?

Insects, voles, mice and rats. These are eaten whole and then the owl coughs up the bones and fur and eats it again.

When are we most likely to see an owl?

Owls are nocturnal (active at night) and we are most likely to spot them at dusk hunting for food or making their call. The owl is very quiet in flight compared to other birds of prey.

The owl's appearance

The colour of the owl's feathers helps it to stay camouflaged in the environment. The feathers are also very soft to make it so quiet when in flight.

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Although owls have binocular vision, their large eyes are fixed in their sockets—as are those of most other birds—so they must turn their entire heads to change views. Luckily most owls can turn their heads 270 degrees!



Five little owls,
On a branch by the shore,
A squirrel scampered by,
And then there were four.



Four little owls,
Perched high up in a tree,
The wind shook one off,
And then there were three.



Three little owls,
With nothing fun to do,
One got very bored,
And then there were two.



Two little owls,
Just having some fun,
A bear came along,
And then there was one.

One little owl,
Winked at the setting sun,
Flew into the forest,
And then there were none.