



Owls of Maine: Crafty Creatures of the Night

Activity Snapshot:

- Owls are amazing, beautiful creatures moving silently through the nighttime world. Today we're going to bring them to life in your own home, by building an owl puppet of your very own!
- Think about the owls you got to meet during our presentation, and choose your favorite owl to craft into a puppet, adding the different shapes and body parts that make them special!
- Remember - an owl in the wild needs two big eyes to find their food, two strong wings, to carry them to their food, two strong feet to catch their food..and a sharp, curved beak to eat it!

Goal:

To think about the adaptations of owls by building an owl puppet or owl faced mask, considering each body part as you add them.

Time Recommended:

30 min

Materials:

- Paper Bags
- Cardstock or Construction Paper
- Glue (or other adhesives, like tape or stapler)
- Scissors
- Crayons, Colored pencils, or Markers
- Templates are provided below - or you can make or draw your own!

Instructions:

1. Choose an owl! We have four different species living with us at Chewonki's Aviaries.
 - a. Saw-Whet Owls
 - b. Eastern Screech Owls
 - c. Barred Owls
 - d. Great Horned Owls.

Which one is your favorite? Why? What are some interesting adaptations your owl has?

2. Gather your materials - begin with the paper bag in front of you. Turn it upside down, so the opening is at the bottom, and the 'bottom' of the bag is facing you. This is your owl's body.
 - a. What is an owl's body covered in? FEATHERS!
 - b. Feathers help keep our bird warm, dry, and hidden from other animals.
3. Make some feathers on your bird's body. You could choose to cut and glue feathers on with construction paper, or simply draw the patterns on with crayons or markers.
 - a. Look at a picture of the owl you chose, try to match the colors and patterns it has!
4. On the top of our owl is the large head - and this is where so many important owl parts are!
 - a. Do you notice the ring around the head? This is the Facial Disc
 - b. Cut out the facial disk for your owl and glue it to the bottom of the paper bag.
5. The Largest Feature on the owl's face are those big EYES...what color are those eyes on your owl?
 - a. Cut out the eyes and glue them on the facial disc.
6. In the center of the face, between the eyes, is the Beak! Sharp and curved, for cutting up meat.
 - a. Cut out a beak shape (a little triangle or diamond) and glue it to your owl puppet, lower on the face.

- b. Cut out another beak shape (for the lower beak!) and, lifting up the bottom, glue it underneath the folded part of the bag, so when the puppet opens their mouth, you will see it.
 - c. What color is your owls beak? Is it black, yellow, grey? Color the beak to match the owl you chose.
7. On the sides of the owl's body...we have the wings! You could choose to make the wings closed, and close to the body...or open, large outstretched wings for flying.
 - a. Cut out the wing shape out of construction paper or cardstock and glue it to the sides of the paper bag.
8. On the bottom of our owl's body are...the feet! Powerful legs for grasping prey.
 - a. Cut out the feet from construction paper and glue (or tape or staple) them to the bottom of the owl (which would be one side of the open part of the bag)
9. Your owl is just about complete! Allow the glue to dry before handling - but once ready, you can slide your hand into the bag, and open and close the mouth of the owl. Where would your paper owl friend live? Is there a cozy nook somewhere?
 - a. Owls don't build nests like other birds, they find holes in trees and nest inside of them. If you have a cardboard box, you could work with a parent or guardian to cut a hole in the box, and make a little tree-hole puppet stage! So your owl friend could peek out of it and hide inside it :)

Closing Questions:

1. What body parts do owls have that help them survive and catch food? Can you point them out on your new owl puppet?
2. Which body parts help them best at night? Remember, the world gets Darker...Colder...and Wetter at night. What helps them find their way in the dark? What helps them hide? What helps them stay warm and dry?
3. Why are owls important to have around? For us? For the natural world?

Additional Materials: Definitions:

Adaptations - Something an animal has on its body, or something an animal does, that helps it to survive and thrive in its home/habitat.

Carnivore - Owls are Carnivores - this means they only eat meat! They use their talons and sharp, curved beaks to catch, rip up, and eat smaller animals like mice.

Facial Disc - the feathers on the face of an owl, forming a ring around the face. These feathers help channel sounds to their hidden ear holes on the sides of their head - giving them AMAZING hearing!

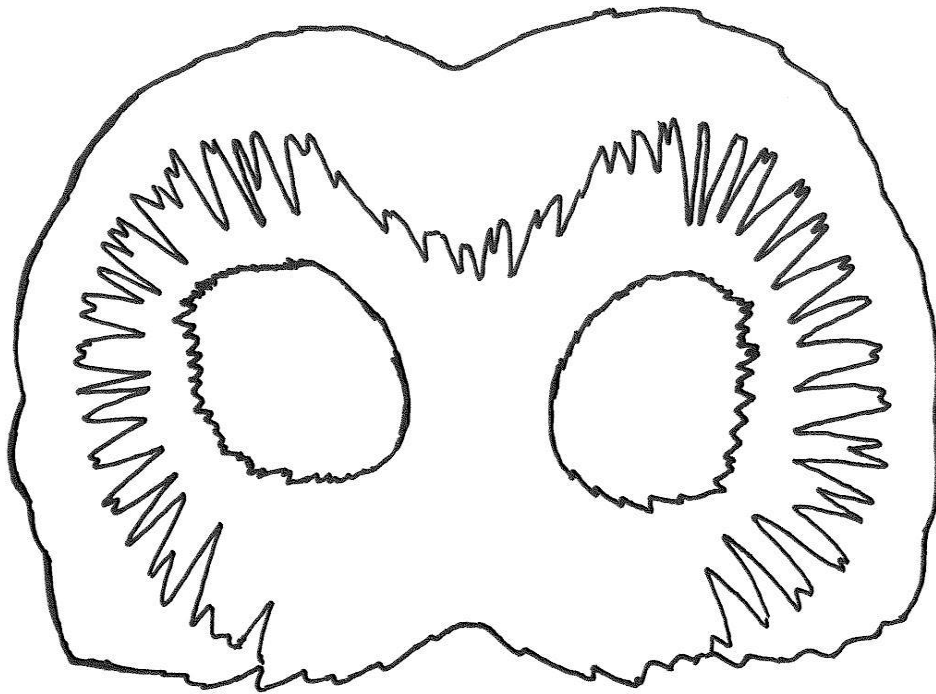
Nocturnal - a creature which is awake and active at night. Many nocturnal creatures have special adaptations to help them better survive and thrive in a nocturnal world.

Talons - the sharp, curved toenails of an owl, used for catching their prey.

Additional Materials: Templates:

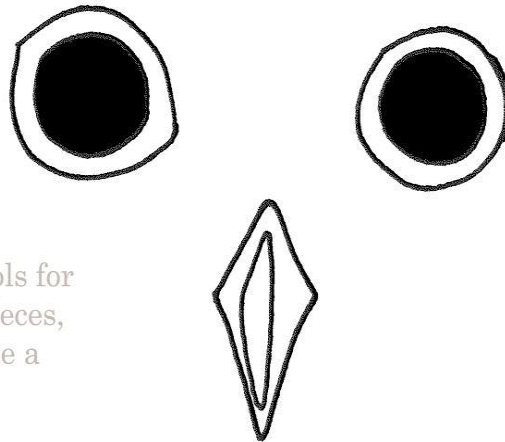


Owls of Maine:
Mask of the Nocturnal Hunter!



Facial Disc! These face feathers direct sounds to earholes, turning their whole face into a big feathery satellite dish, catching sounds!

The eyes of the Saw-Whet Owl are golden yellow. They are always looking straight ahead - eyes fixed in place!
They also have 3 pairs of eyelids!

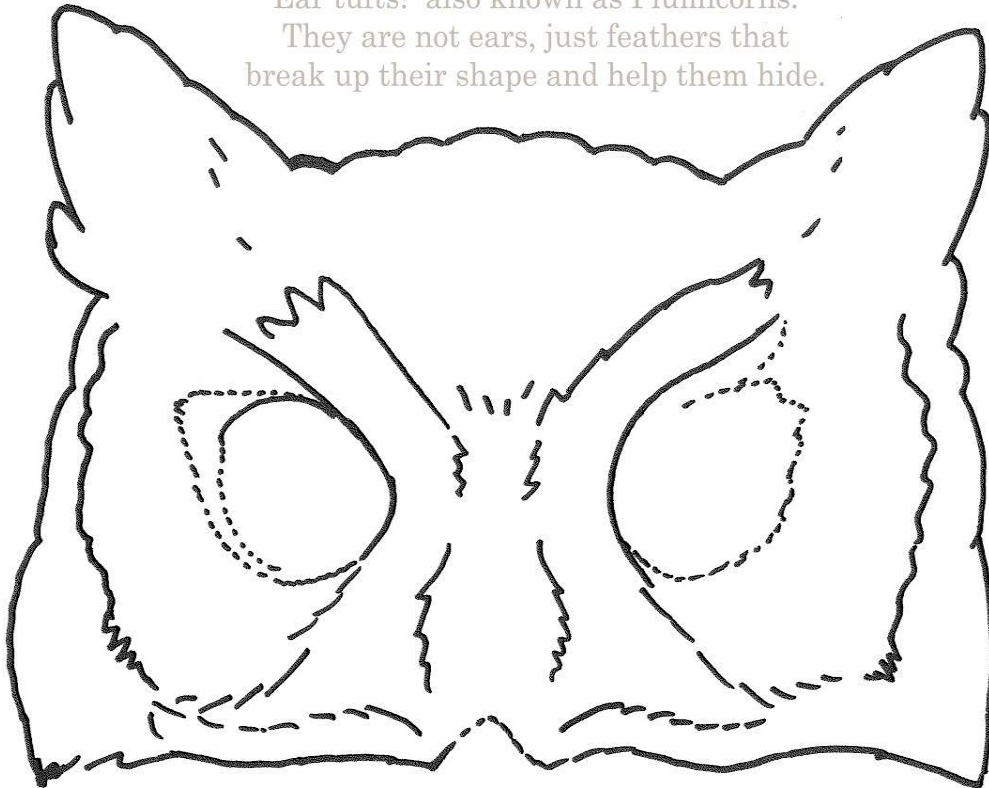


Owls are carnivores - their beaks are tools for cutting and tearing meat into smaller pieces, so they can swallow it down! Kind of like a built-in knife and fork



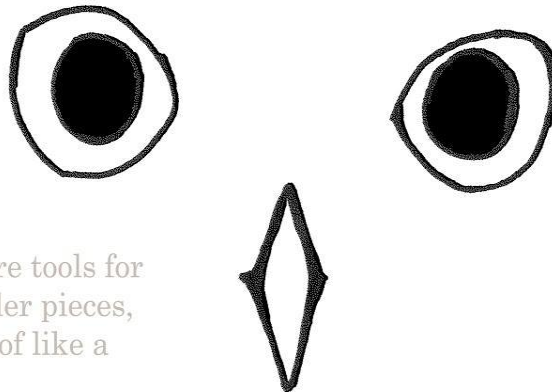
Owls of Maine: Mask of the Nocturnal Hunter!

Ear tufts! also known as Plumicorns.
They are not ears, just feathers that
break up their shape and help them hide.



Facial Disc! These face feathers direct sounds to their earholes, turning
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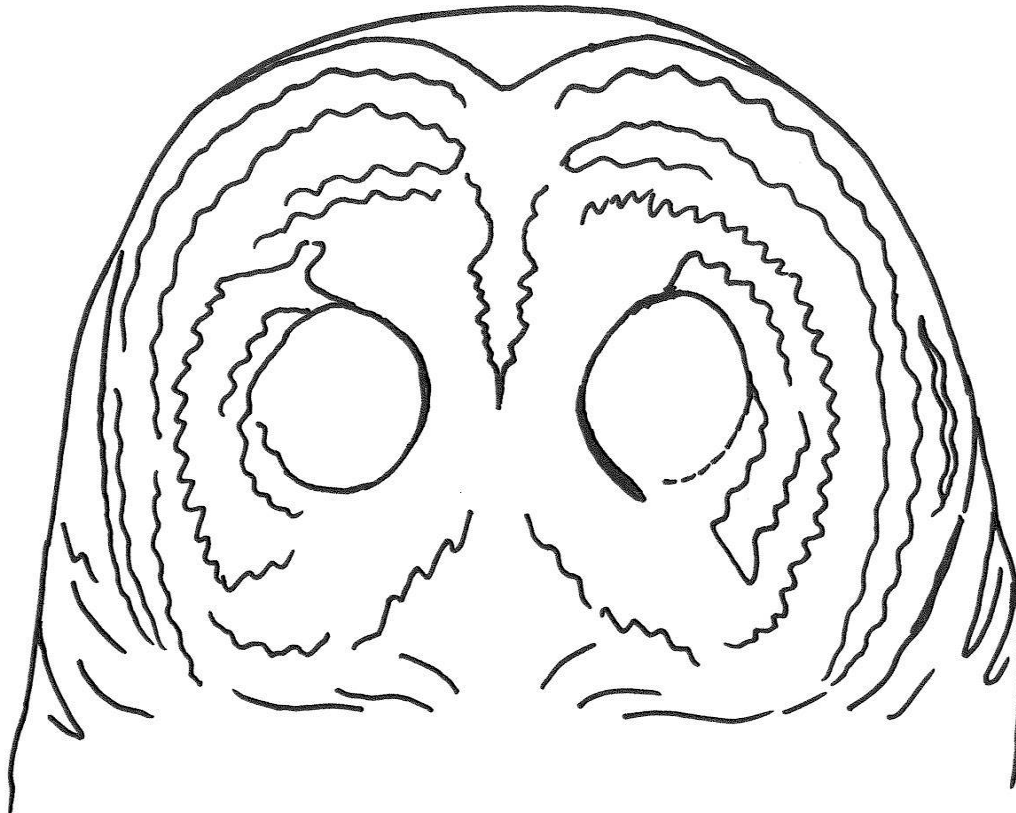
Screech owl eyes are golden yellow.
They are always looking straight
ahead - eyes fixed in place!
They also have 3 pairs of eyelids!



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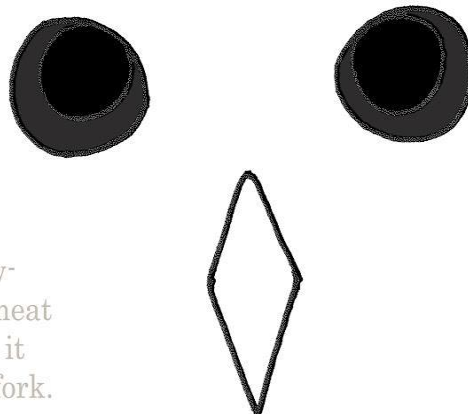


Owls of Maine: Mask of the Nocturnal Hunter!



Facial Disc! These face feathers direct sounds to earholes, turning their whole face into a big feathery satellite dish, catching sounds!

The eyes of the Barred Owl might look black, but they are actually a deep brown. They are always looking straight ahead - eyes fixed in place! They also have 3 pairs of eyelids!

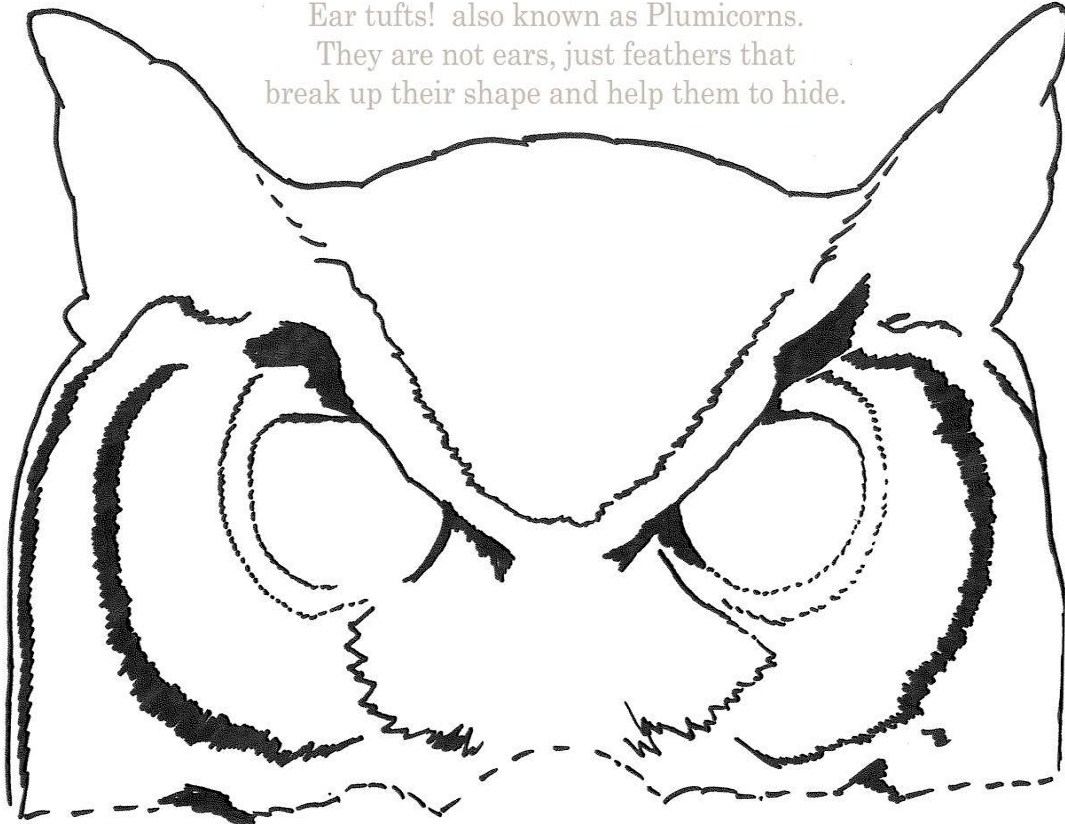


Owls are carnivores - their bright yellow beaks are tools for cutting and tearing meat into smaller pieces, so they can swallow it down! Kind of like a built-in knife and fork.



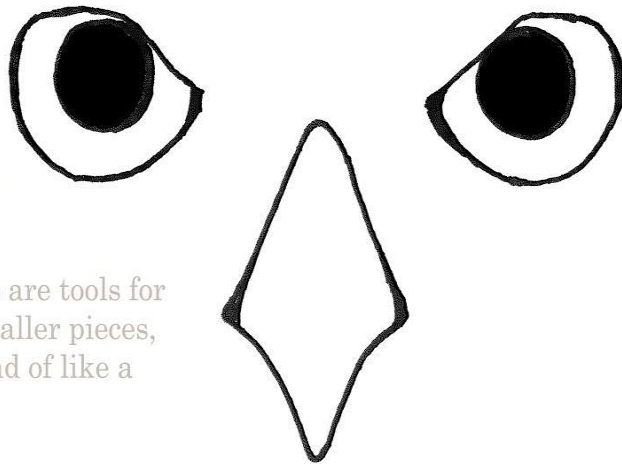
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The eyes of a Great Horned Owl are golden yellow. They are always looking straight ahead - eyes fixed in place!
They also have 3 pairs of eyelids!



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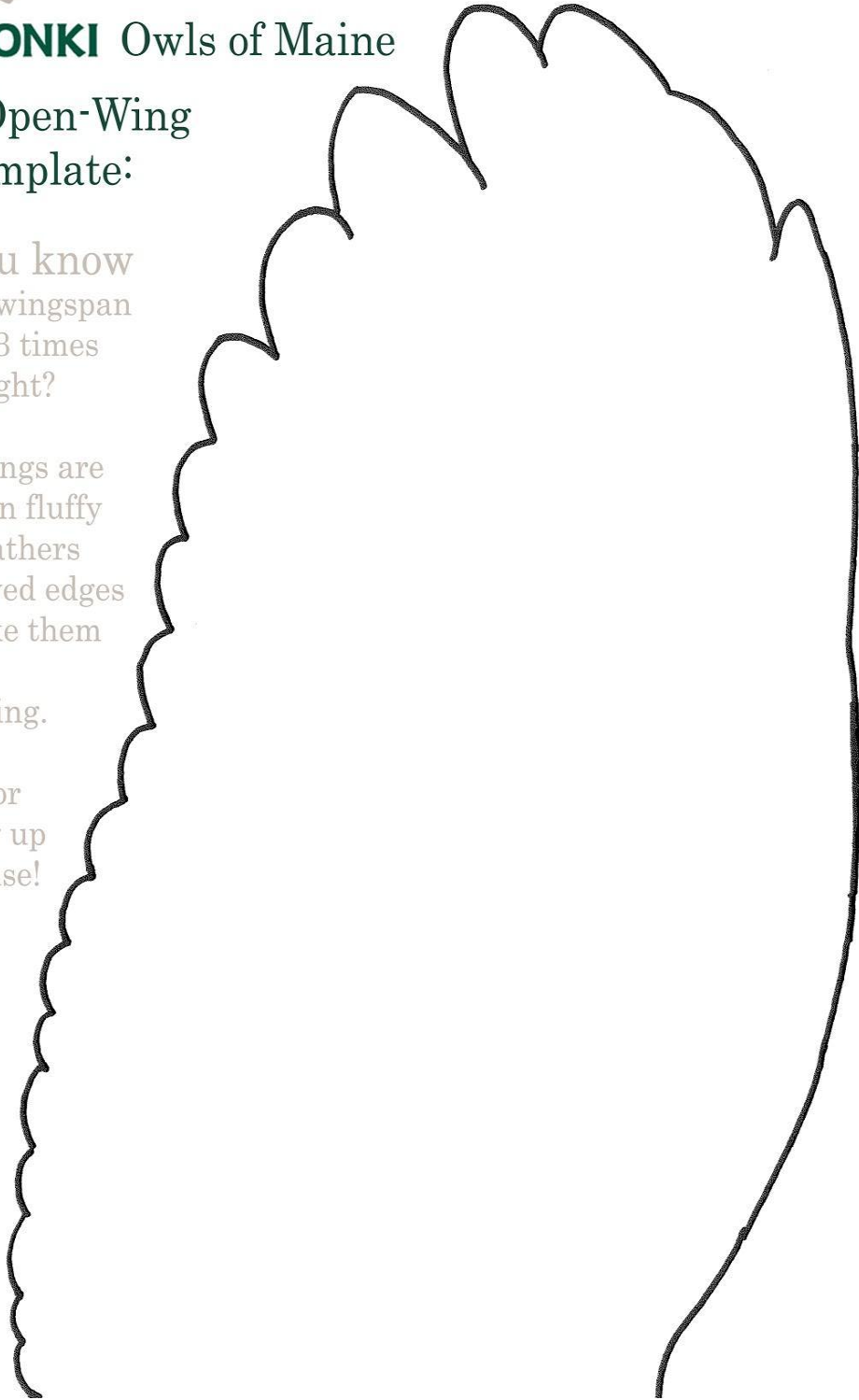
CHEWONKI Owls of Maine

Owl Open-Wing Template:

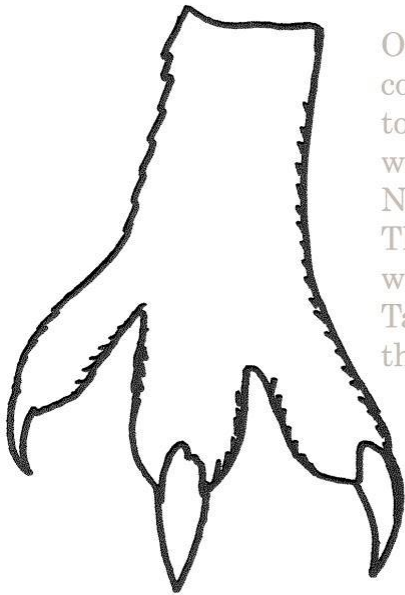
Did you know
an owl's wingspan
is about 3 times
their height?

These wings are
covered in fluffy
warm feathers
with frayed edges
that make them
SILENT
when flying.

Perfect for
sneaking up
on a mouse!



Owls of Maine: Mask of the Nocturnal Hunter!



Owls feet are covered in feathers to keep them warmer in a cold Nocturnal world. They are equipped with sharp, curved Talons for catching their prey.



Owls wings are covered in feathers with patterns that can help them hide against the bark of trees

When the owls wings are closed, they blend in with the body and it can almost look like they don't have any wings at all!

The feathers help keep the owl both warm and dry when living outdoors

