

# Awake After Dark

## Night Animals

### Some creatures come out after dark.

Some animals are active at night. Those animals are **nocturnal**. They sleep during the day.

Nocturnal animals can see clearly in the dark. They often have a good sense of hearing too. Bats, owls, and flying squirrels are nocturnal.

## Bats Make Sounds

Most bats eat insects. How does a bat find an insect in the dark? The bat makes sounds. The sounds bounce off an insect in the bat's path. The sounds return to the bat. That lets the bat know where to find the insect and how big it is.

## Squirrels Take a Leap

Flying squirrels live in trees. Can the squirrels really fly? No! They glide in the air. The squirrel leaps up and opens its arms and legs. Folds of skin connect its wrists to its ankles. That skin acts like wings.

## Owls Use Their Eyes



Catherine Ledner/Getty Images

Owls have large eyes. How does that help? They can see better at night than most animals. An owl's eyes don't move. They always face forward. An owl has to turn its head to see in any other direction. Its head can turn almost all the way around!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Answer the following four questions based on the information in the passage.

1. When do nocturnal animals sleep?

\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

2. What do most bats eat?

\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

3. The passage describes animals that are awake at night and asleep during the day. Where might these animals sleep during the day to stay protected from other animals?

\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the main idea of the passage? Be sure to use details from the text to support your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Please read the sentence below and then write the word or phrase that best answers the questions. The first answer has been provided for you.

*Some bats hunt at night by making sounds.*

What? some bats

**5.** (do) What?

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

**6.** When?

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

**7.** How?

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Flying squirrels can't fly, \_\_\_\_\_ they can glide in the air by leaping up and opening their arms and legs.

- A but
- B because
- C so

**Directions:** Read the vocabulary word and definition below. Then answer questions 9 and 10.

Vocabulary Word: **glide** (glide): to move smoothly and steadily along.

9. Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **glide**.
- a. The swans glided over the surface of the lake.
  - b. After my brother cleaned the hard wooden floor, I was able to glide over the smooth, clean surface with my socks on.
  - c. The airplane pilot glided to a safe landing after the engine failed.
  - d. The ice skaters glided on the ice so smoothly that it seemed as though they were floating.
  - e. Some birds glide through the air silently so that they can sneak up on their prey.
10. Could a person glide along on his or her bicycle? Why or why not?

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## Teacher Guide and Answer Key

**Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 480

**Featured Text Structure:** Enumerative – the writer includes a list, giving examples of something. This text structure is often combined with cause/effect or problem/solution.

**Passage Summary:** “Awake After Dark” explains what it means to be nocturnal. The passage lists examples of nocturnal animals and describes an interesting feature of each animal.

**To the Teacher:** Read the passage aloud to the class [TIP: while reading aloud, show the passage on a whiteboard or give students a copy of the passage so that they can follow along].

Then, use the text-dependent questions 1-8 to facilitate a whole class discussion to ensure students comprehend the key details from the passage.

Finally, use questions 9-10 to deep teach one important vocabulary word [TIP: you can use the model provided for teaching additional vocabulary].

1. When do nocturnal animals sleep? [Important Detail]

**Suggested answer:** Nocturnal animals sleep during the day. [paragraph 1]

2. What do most bats eat? [Important Detail]

**Suggested answer:** Most bats eat insects. [paragraph 3]

3. The passage describes animals that are awake at night and asleep during the day. Where might these animals sleep during the day to stay protected from other animals? [Inferential]

**Suggested answer:** Answers may vary. Acceptable responses include informed guesses that bats find shelter in trees, barns, or other areas where they would be protected.

4. What is the main idea of the passage? Be sure to use details from the text to support your answer. [Main Idea]

**Suggested answer:** Nocturnal animals are animals that are awake after dark. The article describes a few nocturnal animals that have interesting features. For

example, the owl is nocturnal. It has large eyes that help it to see at night. Although its eyes don't move, it can move its neck almost all the way around!

**Directions:** Please read the sentence below and then write the word or phrase that best answers the questions. The first answer has been provided for you.

*Some bats hunt at night by making sounds.*

What? some bats

5. (do) What? **hunt**

6. When? **at night**

7. How? **by making sounds**

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Flying squirrels can't fly, \_\_\_\_\_ they can glide in the air by leaping up and opening their arms and legs.

**A but**

**B because**

**C so**

**To the Teacher:** ReadWorks recommends that you teach this vocabulary word to the whole class out loud using the four steps listed below.

Vocabulary Word: **glide** (glide): to move smoothly and steadily along.

**Step 1:** Introduce the word

- a. Teacher writes the word on the board and divides it into syllables: (glide)
- b. Teacher says: "This word is glide. What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "glide."]

**Step 2:** Provide a child-friendly definition

- a. Teacher says: "To glide means to move smoothly and steadily along."

- b. Teacher says: "In the passage, the author writes about how squirrels can glide through the air. Flying squirrels have folds of skin between their wrists and ankles. These folds of skin connect the wrists and ankles so that the squirrels can glide, or move smoothly, through the air."
- c. Teacher says: "What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "glide."]

**Step 3:** Practice the word

Teacher provides examples and additional opportunities to repeat the word. Read the first sentence out loud to your students. Begin reading it again and when you come to the vocabulary word prompt students to say the vocabulary word out loud. Then, finish reading the sentence out loud to your students.

**Directions:** Read the vocabulary word and definition below. Then answer questions 9 and 10.

Vocabulary Word: **glide** (glide): to move smoothly and steadily along.

9. Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **glide**.
- a. The swans glided over the surface of the lake.
- b. After my brother cleaned the hard wooden floor, I was able to glide over the smooth, clean surface with my socks on.
- c. The airplane pilot glided to a safe landing after the engine failed.
- d. The ice skaters glided on the ice so smoothly that it seemed as though they were floating.
- e. Some birds glide through the air silently so that they can sneak up on their prey.

**Step 4:** Check for student understanding

**To the Teacher:** This step can be completed as a whole class activity or as an independent practice.

10. Could a person glide along on his or her bicycle? Why or why not?

**Suggested answer:** A person could glide along on his or her bicycle. To glide means to move along smoothly, so if one is riding on a smooth surface, one should be able to glide.

*Suggested Additional Vocabulary:* active, connect