Great Horned Owl Activity Book

The Raptor Center
www.TheRaptorCenter.org

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Great Horned Owl Coloring Page

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Great Horned Owl Quick Facts Sheet

The Great Horned Owl's scientific name is *Bubo virginianus*.

**Appearance:** Great Horned Owls are the largest of the "tufted" owls in North America. They have large yellow eyes and a white throat patch. They can be reddish-brown to light gray to black and white and they have horizontal barring on their chests. Their large feet are feathered to the ends of the toes.

Look for a big owl with feather tufts and large, yellow eyes.

**Fun Facts!** The large feather tufts that give the Great "Horned" Owl its name are sometimes called "ear tufts", but they have nothing to do with hearing at all.

**Sound:** Also known as a "hoot owl", Great Horned Owls give four to five hoots, "who, whoo-hoo, whooo, whooo ". They also make many other noises including chirping sounds and a "hawnk" noise.

**Fun Facts!** Their hooting call can be heard from miles away on a calm night.

**Flight:** Great Horned Owls fly silently thanks to soft, fringe-edged wing feathers.

**What it eats:** This "Tiger of the Sky" eats just about everything... Including skunks! They also hunt ducks, rabbits, squirrels, marsh birds, snakes, insects, rodents, turtles, young alligators, armadillos, other owls, porcupines, fish, scorpions, bats... and the list goes on.

**How it hunts:** Great Horned Owls hunt at dawn and dusk (a crepuscular hunter). They will hunt from a perch, on the wing or even on foot. They have been known to wade into water.

**Fun Facts!** They have such sensitive hearing that they can hear a mouse under a foot or more of snow. And catch it.

They often get harassed or "mobbed" by American Crows. This is because the owl is one of the most important predators on crows. If you hear a large, noisy group of crows, look to see if there is an owl nearby.

**Where you will see one:** These very adaptable birds are found all over North America: in forests, deserts, plains, and city parks.

Great Horned Owls use the nests of other birds. They may also use squirrel nests, hollows in trees, rocky caves, abandoned buildings, or artificial platforms.
Great Horned Owl Word Find

Find the words forward, backward, or diagonally!

L A R G A B U B O V I R G I N I A N U S L W I
Y E M C C R E P U S C U L A R I C O H T M C Y
E Q A C U R T T A Y E M C Q T U R R E N J X G
L E N R X G S K N U K S T I J M C E B E E T A
L Y V U T Y E M C T I Q T A M C M T E D L M C
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Y X S W T U R X G C M C H I C O Y E M C A L B

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<tr>
<th>Large Owl</th>
<th>Ear Tufts</th>
<th>Yellow Eyes</th>
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<tr>
<td>White Throat Patch</td>
<td>Large Feet</td>
<td>Skunks</td>
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<td>Waterfowl</td>
<td>Rabbits</td>
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<td>Rodents</td>
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<td>Tiger of the Sky</td>
<td>Cliff Ledges</td>
<td>American Crows</td>
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<td>Stands of Trees</td>
<td>Woodlots</td>
<td>Bubo virginianus</td>
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Great Horned Owl Maze

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Great Horned Owl Hidden Message

Use the key below to find out who regularly harasses the Great Horned Owl.

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|   | 3 | 15| 20| 14| 11| 16| 8 | 12| 6 | 1 | 21| 17| 18| 23| 25| 7 | 22| 5 | 9 | 4 | 19| 13| 26| 24| 2 | 10 |

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Great Horned Owl Word Scramble

Unscramble the words below to learn about the Great Horned Owl's feet.

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Great Horned Owl Activity Book - Answer Key

Word Find

Maze

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Hidden Message

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Word Scramble

E E R D T F H E A

F E A T H E R E D

O T E T H

T O T H E

N D E S F O

E N D S O F

H E T S T E O

T H E T O E S

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