Barn Owl Activity Book

The Raptor Center
www.TheRaptorCenter.org

1920 Fitch Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108
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Phone: 612-624-4745 Fax: 612-624-8740
Barn Owl Coloring Page
Barn Owl Quick Facts Sheet

The Barn Owl's scientific name is *Tyto alba*.

**Appearance:** This medium-sized owl has a prominent white and heart-shaped facial disc. Its back plumage (feather color) is sandy brown and streaked or polka dotted with white and blue – some people might think it looks like a toasted marshmallow. The chest is light with dark polka dots. The female has a more reddish and heavily spotted chest.

Look for a light colored owl with no feather tufts; a white, heart-shaped face; small, dark eyes; and long unfeathered legs.

**Fun Facts!** This is one of the few bird species where females are showier than males.

Heavily spotted females get fewer parasitic flies and may be more resistant to parasites and diseases.

**Sound:** Barn Owls call infrequently. The most common sound is a drawn-out, rasping screech.

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

**What it eats:** They primarily eat voles, but will also eat small mammals like mice, rats, and shrews. Some will eat lizards, birds, frogs, bats, and insects.

**How it hunts:** Barn Owls hunt at night (nocturnal hunters) – but some have been known to hunt during the day. They can easily find prey at night thanks to their excellent low-light vision.

**Fun Facts!** They have the most accurate hearing of any animal. They can catch prey in complete darkness or when hidden by vegetation or snow.

Barn Owls have asymmetrical ear openings - one high up on the skull and the other much lower. These help the owl find exactly where a sound is coming from, including how far away and how high off the ground it is.

**Where you will see one:** They live all over the world, usually near open areas like grasslands, fields, deserts, or marshes. They do not live in very cold climates.

They like to nest in tree cavities but have adapted to nesting in structures such as barns, attics, silos, steeples, and nesting boxes.

**Fun Facts!** They are one of the most widely distributed birds in the world.

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## Barn Owl Word Find

*Find the words forward, backward, or diagonally!*

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M A H E A U Y R E T S E S H I S S I N G N N H
E R E T S E N Y T I V A C O B G I L P Y D E B
D L S A F C L K O F L E W B L A R E U S A B A
I O R A S P A B T O E H O P E N F A I R R T H
J N A R R E S A R D A B L A O T Y T S K N A
E G U G A B L A C H N W S O S S I S R A E D S
A L I N T R E S B G I L Y E P H E H E Y J E
S E D G S U G E L Y A T E E W A S F O B E U I
T G I V K N A V I L A E G L P R D T O E S N C
N S O R I R S O P E N F I E L D S R E T S E E
E I C P A I L N K C L B D W H T E G N B L A P
D J S R E R E T S E V F E R L Y A R O G R B S
O A E B G I L P P H A E P R W O F G C Y R B D
R C B L A T F Y D C N C Y T O R N M T N S B N
L S H P P R K R I T E C H P M B L A U B L T A
L Q W R Y I P A S F H K M B U C Z L R M N C L
A N Q E T U L O A D G T H G I L F T N E L I S
M O J L X D V N B L A R C B D G J L A Z L R S
S L N V I X A D G I L Z L R E Q E T L U O P A
R Y G S K L R E T S E M B C M X V N L H F S R
T T C R C B W R S G A F X H J K R E T S E B G
B R T R B I L L C L A C K I N G Z L R G I L C
C C S D G I L E Q S R C B D F J M R W N Z L R
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medium Owl</th>
<th>Heart Shaped Facial Disc</th>
<th>Dark Eyes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tyto alba</td>
<td>Long Legs</td>
<td>Rasping Screech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hissing</td>
<td>Bill Clacking</td>
<td>Silent Flight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rats</td>
<td>Small Rodents</td>
<td>Nocturnal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavity Nester</td>
<td>Grassland Species</td>
<td>Open Fields</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Barn Owl Maze
Barn Owl Hidden Message

Use the key below to learn a fun fact about what a Barn Owl may do if it is surprised.

____  ____  ____  ____  ____  ____
12  6  9  9  11  9

____  ____  ____
3  23  14

____  ____  ____  ____  ____  ____
20  17  3  20  21  9

____  ____  ____  ____
15  11  3  21

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

Unscramble the words below to learn where Barn Owls hunt.

E   H   Y   T

U   T   H   N   N   I

P   O   N   E

S   I   D   F   L   E
Barn Owl Activity Book - Answer Key

Word Find

Maze

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Hidden Message

H I S S E S
12 6 9 9 11 9

A N D
3 23 14

C L A C K S
20 17 3 20 21 9

B E A K
15 11 3 21

Word Scramble

E H Y T
THEY

U T H N I
HUNTIN

P O N E
OPEN

S I D F L E
FIELDS