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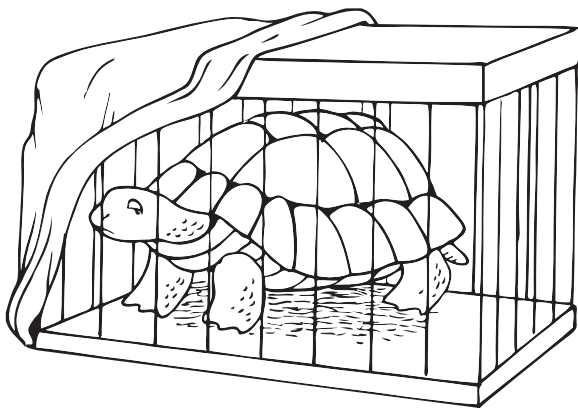
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All of the students from Mrs. Mallory's class walked quietly into the library. Jack was curious about what the day would be like. He knew today was a special day. The fourth graders were not there to check out books. They were meeting in the library for a presentation. A group from a wildlife rehabilitation shelter was visiting the school. The people at the shelter help animals from the wild that are hurt. Jack's teacher had told everyone in the class that some of the animals would be able to go back into the wild. Other animals would have to always live at the shelter. Mrs. Mallory had told the students they would get to see some of the animals, but they would not be able to touch any of them.

As the students took their seats, they saw four cages. The cages were covered with cloths. Jack thought he saw brown feathers peeking out from one of the cages. The class listened as a woman from the shelter talked about the animals.



Jack listened carefully as she told the students what they would see. Two animals were reptiles. One animal was a mammal. The final animal was a bird. Over the next thirty minutes, the class got to see a snake, a turtle, and an opossum. Jack sat up a little straighter as she brought out the final animal. It was an owl! The bird was no bigger than Jack's two hands. Jack listened as she explained what had happened to the owl. He was blind in one eye after he had been hit by a car. The owl had been trying to get food out of a paper bag that had been thrown out on the side of the road. The bag had food inside. A mouse had gone in after the food. The owl had seen the bag move and went after it. At the same time, a car came by and hit the owl. Sadly, the owl would never be able to go back into the wild and survive. The people at the shelter, however, would love and take care of the amazing bird.

Before Jack went back to class, he asked his teacher if he could ask one last question. He wanted to know if the shelter had volunteers who worked there. Jack was glad to hear that her answer was yes.

Owls can be found on almost every continent in the world, except Antarctica. Because owls live in different places, there are various types of owls. Owls come in many different colors. Their feathers are usually colored to blend in with particular habitats. This helps keep them safe from predators and helps them hunt.

Most owls have some features that are similar. They usually have round faces and big eyes. Their sharp bill is also a feature that makes them stand out from other animals. Their ear tufts are another special feature. The feathers that stick up on the heads of many owls are not ears but tufts. An owl's ears are on the side of its head just like yours! Another special thing about most owls is the amount of feathers that cover their bodies. Many owls have feathers that cover their legs and their feet.



Owls are nocturnal creatures. Their bodies were made to search for prey in the evening light. They have excellent senses that help them find their prey in the dark. Owls have large eyes that help them see well, but they cannot move their eyes like a person can. Instead, an owl moves its head to see all around. In fact, an owl can move its head so far around that it can see what is behind it! Not only do owls have amazing sight, but they also have incredible hearing. They can hear an animal as small as a mouse over great distances. These features, along with their incredible ability to fly and their sharp claws and beaks, make the owl the ultimate night predator.

Once an owl has captured its prey, it is time for it to eat. Owls are very neat eaters because they eat everything! They swallow their prey whole. This means they eat even the bones and fur of whatever they catch. The owl cannot digest all of what it swallows, so things can get a little messy. The things that cannot be digested become small pellets, and the owl spits them back out! Anyone brave enough to dig through an owl pellet can usually tell what the owl ate for dinner.

**UNIT 10
QUESTIONS**

Name

Date

The following pages have questions based on the texts from Unit 10. You may look at the stories to help answer any questions. Use the back of the page if you need extra space for writing your answers.

- 1** Why did the students most likely need to be quiet when they walked into the library?
- a because people were reading
 - b because people were studying
 - c because people's voices could scare the animals
 - d because the teacher had a headache
- 2** Which paragraph in the text "Wildlife Adventure" best explains why the students were visiting the library?
- a paragraph 1
 - b paragraph 2
 - c paragraph 3
 - d paragraph 4
- 3** Why did Jack ask one last question?
- a He wanted to know about volunteering at the shelter.
 - b He did not want to go back to class.
 - c He wanted to find out more about owls.
 - d He knew the lady from the shelter.
- 4** One of the texts is titled "Amazing Owls." Using this text, list two reasons why owls are amazing creatures.
- a. _____
- b. _____
- 5** Why do owls have different colored feathers? Fill in **all** the answers that are correct.
- a to help them blend in with their habitats
 - b to help them be better predators
 - c to help them hide from their prey
 - d to help them fly better

**UNIT 10
QUESTIONS**

Name

Date

6 Explain the purpose of the wildlife shelter.

7 If Jack has the opportunity to volunteer at the shelter, what will he most likely do?

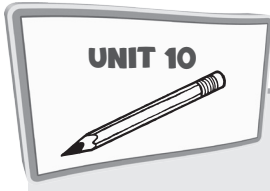
- a turn down the opportunity
- b decide to help
- c help if some of his friends will also go to help
- d give the shelter some money but not any of his time

8 What do the two texts have in common?

9 Write an opinion someone might have about owls.

10 Why could the owl from the shelter not be returned to the wild?

- a The owl could no longer fly.
- b The owl was blind in one eye.
- c The owl had lost one of its legs.
- d The owl was scared of loud noises.



Time to Write!

People usually say certain animals make certain sounds. A dog goes “woof,” or a cat goes “meow.” Most people say an owl goes “hoo” or “who.” Try thinking like an owl sounds and answer the “who” questions below.

1. Who is someone you have known for a long time?

2. Who is someone from history you would like to learn more about?

3. Who is your favorite actor or singer?

4. Who are some people in your family?

5. Who is your teacher?

6. Who do you think has an amazing smile?

7. Who is someone you would do something nice for?

8. Who is someone who has done something nice for you?

9. Who is someone you hope you will always know?

10. Who is someone you have always dreamed of meeting?

Something Extra: On the back of the page, write a short paragraph explaining who you most admire and why.