

Report Writing: The Amazing Barn Owl

Learning objective: To identify the features of a non-chronological report and retrieve information from a text.

Read the report about Nova the Barn Owl carefully, then answer the questions below. Remember to use evidence from the text.

The Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) is a fascinating bird found across the globe. These birds are nocturnal, meaning they are most active during the night. Nova the Barn Owl has several special adaptations that make her a brilliant hunter. Her feathers are soft and silent, allowing her to fly through the dark without making a sound. This helps her sneak up on her prey. Barn owls have excellent hearing, which helps them locate small creatures in the tall grass. Their habitat usually includes open fields, barns, and quiet woodlands. Unlike other birds, barn owls do not hoot; instead, they make a long, raspy screech. Sadly, these beautiful birds need our help. By keeping the countryside clean and protecting their nesting sites, we can ensure that owls like Nova continue to thrive in the wild.

Word bank: habitat · nocturnal · adaptation · features · prey · talons

1. What does the word 'nocturnal' mean in the second sentence? Use the text to explain your answer. (2 marks)

2. List two adaptations that help Nova the Barn Owl to be a successful hunter. (2 marks)

3. Where is the typical habitat of a barn owl? (1 mark)

4. How does the sound a barn owl makes differ from what people often expect? (2 marks)

5. Why does the author suggest that we need to keep the countryside clean? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Nova the Barn Owl in her natural habitat. Include labels to show two of her special adaptations mentioned in the text.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an expert on a different animal. Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) using the features of a report, such as a subheading and a factual tone, to describe your chosen animal.