



# Nocturnal Animals

## What is a nocturnal animal?

A **nocturnal** animal is an animal that is awake during the night and sleeps during the day. Some animals are nocturnal to hide from **predators** whilst others are nocturnal because they live in hot places such as **deserts**. Many animals, such as foxes and barn owls, are usually nocturnal but if they cannot find enough food then they will hunt during the day.



kangaroo rats are small rodents that live in American deserts

## Bats

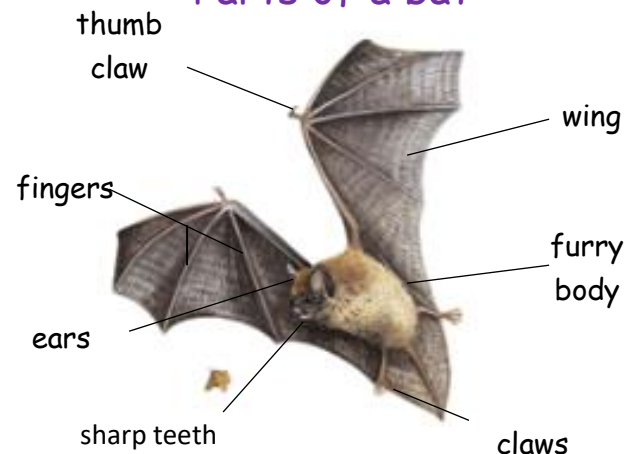
There are about one thousand species of bat. They can be as tiny as a bumble bee or as wide as a person's arms. They live in every continent apart from Antarctica. Insect eating bats are nocturnal and they use **echolocation** to catch moths, mosquitoes and fire flies. Other bats that eat fruit are crepuscular, which means they are most active at **twilight**.

## Barn Owls



Barn owls are amazing birds that are usually nocturnal. They have beautiful, soft feathers but as they aren't waterproof they sometimes have to hunt during the day. They eat a variety of animals including voles, small rabbits and frogs. Interestingly they have hidden ears and their heart-shaped faces help to collect sounds.

## Parts of a bat



## Key vocabulary

<b>barn owl</b>	A bird of prey that is usually nocturnal
<b>bat</b>	The only flying mammal in the world
<b>desert</b>	An area of land with little rain
<b>echolocation</b>	The use of sound waves to find objects such as food. Bats send out high pitched squeaks and the sound waves come back to them.
<b>nocturnal</b>	An animal that is awake during the night and sleeps through the day
<b>predators</b>	Animals that hunt and kill other animals for food
<b>twilight</b>	A time between daylight and darkness