



Hey kids, have you ever seen a cool bird with a heart-shaped face and dark, soulful eyes? That's the spotted owl, a real night owl with fluffy feathers and spots all over its body. These owls are medium-sized, about the size of your school backpack, and have a wingspan as wide as your arms when you spread them out wide. They have a round head, no ear tufts, and their eyes are dark brown, almost black, which is pretty rare among owls.

Now that you know how these owls look, let's take a peek at where they call home. Spotted owls like to live in old-growth forests, which are forests that have been growing for a long time without disruption. These owls can be found in North America, especially the Pacific Northwest, but some also live in Mexico. They like to nest in tree cavities, on top of broken-off trees, or sometimes in nests left by other animals.

Believe it or not, these owls are not fussy eaters at all. Their diet mainly consists of small mammals like flying squirrels, woodrats, and mice, but they also eat some birds and insects. These owls have a special way of hunting, they sit quietly on a perch and wait for their prey, then swoop down to catch it. And it's not all about eating and sleeping, these owls also have a fascinating life cycle. They lay eggs once a year, and the female takes care of the eggs while the male brings her food.



Just like us, these owls have friends and foes in the animal kingdom. While they have few predators due to their size, they compete with other birds, like the barred owl, for space and food. Humans also affect the lives of spotted owls, both positively and negatively. On one hand, logging activities threaten their habitat, but on the other hand, conservation efforts are being made to protect them. So, even though spotted owls are a bit different from other owls and face some challenges, they are an important part of our world's ecosystem and are super interesting to learn about!



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) Where can you find spotted owls?
 - A. In Australia
 - B. In Africa
 - C. In Asia
 - D. In North America
- 2) What do spotted owls mainly eat?
 - A. Berries and nuts and seeds from the trees.
 - B. Leaves and grass from the forests.
 - C. Fish from the rivers.
 - D. Small mammals like flying squirrels, woodrats, and mice.
- 3) Where do spotted owls live?
 - A. In swamps or marshes
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 - C. On the beach
 - D. In the desert
- 4) Who takes care of the eggs in a spotted owl's family?
 - A. Owls do not lay eggs
 - B. The male
 - C. The female
 - D. Both the male and the female
- 5) Do spotted owls have ear tufts?
 - A. No, they don't have ear tufts.
 - B. Yes, they have small, floppy ear tufts.
 - C. Yes, they have long ear tufts.
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- 6) What color are the eyes of a spotted owl?
 - A. Dark brown
 - B. Crystal blue
 - C. Bright yellow
 - D. Reddish-orange
- 7) How do spotted owls hunt?
 - A. They dig pits and wait for their prey to fall in them
 - B. They chase their prey
 - C. They sit quietly on a perch and wait for their prey
 - D. They are scavengers and feed on dead animals
- 8) How often do spotted owls lay eggs?
 - A. Once every full moon.
 - B. Once a month.
 - C. Once a year.
 - D. Once every 10 years.
- 9) How might humans affect the lives of spotted owls negatively?
 - A. Humans teach them bad habits.
 - B. Logging activities threaten their habitat.
 - C. Humans give them too much food.
 - D. Humans build them too many houses.
- 10) Where might you find a spotted owl's nest?
 - A. In a burrow underground
 - B. In shrubs or bushes
 - C. On the lowest branch of a tree
 - D. In a tree cavity

11) What shape best describes the owl's face?

- A. Heart
B. Square
C. Hexagon
D. Circle

Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it is not something the animal would say (N).

- 12) "I love to hunt during the day."
- 13) "The female in my family takes care of the eggs, while I help by fetching her food."
- 14) "I love to settle in tall and old forests where my feathery hide can be well hidden among ancient trees."
- 15) "These pretty feathers on my face form my heart-shaped face, which is rare for owls."
- 16) "I'm not picky when it comes to food. I'll happily munch on small mammals that come my way."
- 17) "I have bright blue eyes, unlike other owls."
- 18) "You'll generally find me in the grasslands of Africa."
- 19) "I look small, but I can spread my wings as far as your arms."
- 20) "I'm a vegetarian, and my diet consists of fruits and nuts."
- 21) "During the daytime, you'll often see me flying around."
- 22) "My hunting technique? I sit quietly on a perch and wait for my dinner."
- 23) "I like to live in busy urban areas."
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- 28) "My home is not like yours. I like to build my nest inside tree hollows or sometimes even on broken trees."
- 29) "I build my nest in the soft sand on the beach."
- 30) "I prefer to live in open pastures."

Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 31) Spotted owls lay eggs once a year, and the female takes care of the eggs.
- 32) Spotted owls with their heart-shaped face and dark, soulful eyes are adorable.
- 33) The staple food of spotted owls includes small mammals, birds and insects.
- 34) Having no ear tufts make the spotted owls look uninteresting compared to other owls.
- 35) Spotted owls prefer to live in old-growth forests in North America.
- 36) Spotted owls are the best because they eat insects which can annoy us.
- 37) Human activities like logging threaten the habitat of spotted owls.
- 38) Some spotted owls are found in Mexico.
- 39) The fluffy feathers and body spots make spotted owls the most stylish kind of owl.

- 40)** Residing in old-growth forests, spotted owls surely have the best choice in homes.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 41) Spotted owls diet mainly includes small mammals like squirrels and mice.
- 42) Spotted owls do not build nests.
- 43) Spotted owls wingspan can be as wide as your arms.
- 44) Spotted owls hunt by chasing their prey, sometimes miles.
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- 46) Spotted owls lay eggs once per season.
- 47) Spotted owls love to eat large mammals like deer.
- 48) Spotted owls are herbivores and only eat berries.
- 49) Spotted owls have few predators due to their size.
- 50) Spotted owls have a heart-shaped face.

Determine which choice is the expanded form of the underlined contraction.

- 51) I've seen a spotted owl before," said the park ranger.
A. I was
C. I am
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- 52) They'll fly silently through the forest at night.
A. They will
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Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

- 56)** Spotted owls can turn their heads almost 180 degrees.
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| 2. _____ | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
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|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. <u>D</u> | 26. <u>false</u> | 51. <u>B</u> |
| 2. <u>D</u> | 27. <u>true</u> | 52. <u>A</u> |
| 3. <u>B</u> | 28. <u>true</u> | 53. <u>D</u> |
| 4. <u>C</u> | 29. <u>false</u> | 54. <u>A</u> |
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| 6. <u>A</u> | 31. <u>fact</u> | 56. <u>declarative</u> |
| 7. <u>C</u> | 32. <u>opinion</u> | 57. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 8. <u>C</u> | 33. <u>fact</u> | 58. <u>declarative</u> |
| 9. <u>B</u> | 34. <u>opinion</u> | 59. <u>declarative</u> |
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12) "I love to hunt during the day." (paragraph 1)