

# British Wildlife

Lots of wild animals live in Britain. There are many birds and mammals. You can see some of them in your garden or local park. Many of them only come out at night.

## Animals at Night

These British animals usually come out at night:



badger



fox



hedgehog



barn owl

## British Squirrels

- There are two types of squirrel in Britain. There are grey squirrels and red squirrels.
- You see many more grey squirrels than red squirrels.



a grey squirrel



a red squirrel



## Top Five Birds



house sparrow



blue tit



starling



blackbird



woodpigeon

You may see these  
in your local park in  
the daytime.

# Questions

1. Where can you see some British birds and mammals? Tick one.

- ☐ in your garden
- ☐ in a zoo
- ☐ at a farm

2. Which animal usually comes out at night? Tick one.

- ☐ cat
- ☐ blackbird
- ☐ badger

3. What is the number one bird in Britain? Tick one.

- ☐ woodpigeon
- ☐ blue tit
- ☐ house sparrow

4. How many types of squirrel are there? Tick one.

- ☐ grey squirrels
- ☐ five types
- ☐ two types

5. Which colours are British squirrels? Tick one.

- ☐ grey and black
- ☐ grey and red
- ☐ grey and orange

# Answers

1. Where can you see some British birds and mammals? Tick one.

- ☒ **in your garden**
- ☐ in a zoo
- ☐ at a farm

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- ☐ blackbird
- ☒ **badger**

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- ☒ **house sparrow**

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- ☒ **grey and red**
- ☐ grey and orange

# British Wildlife

There are lots of wild animals that live in Britain. There are many birds, mammals and even reptiles, such as snakes.

You can see some of these animals in your garden or local park. Some of them are nocturnal. This means they usually come out at night.

## Nocturnal Animals

Hedgehogs, badgers and foxes usually come out at night.

Hedgehogs are very noisy eaters! They mostly eat beetles, caterpillars and worms but they also like cat food.

Badgers eat worms, frogs and rats but they will eat hedgehogs as well.

Owls often fly at night. One of the most common kinds is the barn owl. It has a white body and a golden back. Some people call it the screech owl because it can be very noisy. It eats mice, birds and insects.



## Did You Know...?

- There are three types of snake that can be found in Britain.
- They are mostly harmless.
- The adder is the only venomous snake found in Britain but it is very shy and is not usually aggressive.



## What Are the Most Common UK Garden Birds?

The results of a survey in 2020 showed that the most common British bird was the house sparrow.



house sparrow



starling



blue tit



woodpigeon



blackbird

# Questions

1. Which word means 'animals that usually come out at night'? Tick one.

- ☐ mammal
- ☐ nocturnal
- ☐ reptile

2. How many types of snake are there in Britain? Tick one.

- ☐ two
- ☐ three
- ☐ four

3. Draw **three** lines to match the animals to their food.

hedgehogs •

barn owls •

badgers •

• beetles, caterpillars and worms

• worms, frogs, rats and hedgehogs

• mice, birds and insects

4. Look at the **Did You Know...?** section. Find and copy one word which shows that the adder will not usually come out to hurt people.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the most common British bird?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Answers

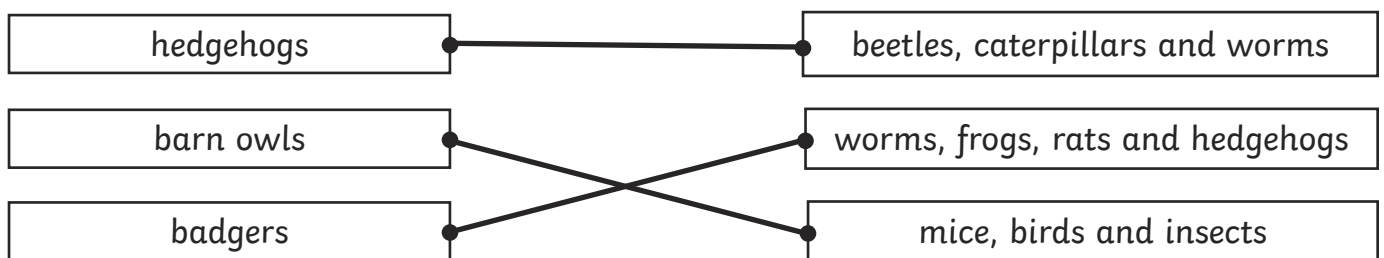
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- ☐ mammal  
☒ **nocturnal**  
☐ reptile

2. How many types of snake are there in Britain? Tick one.

- ☐ two  
☒ **three**  
☐ four

3. Draw **three** lines to match the animals to their food.



4. Look at the **Did You Know...?** section. Find and copy one word which shows that the adder will not usually come out to hurt people.

**shy**

5. What is the most common British bird?

**The house sparrow is the most common British bird.**

# British Wildlife

Britain is home to many different types of wildlife. There are many birds, mammals and even reptiles.

Some animals usually come out at night - they are nocturnal. Some animals sleep through the winter - they hibernate. However, you can see many animals in your local park or garden if you put food out and wait.

## Nocturnal Animals

Hedgehogs, badgers and foxes usually come out at night. In the daytime, they sleep in a nest, sett or den. At night-time, they come out to feed on earthworms, beetles and other small animals.

Owls are also nocturnal. There are six types of owls in Britain and one of the most common is the barn owl. It has a white body, a golden back and a heart-shaped face. Some people call it the screech owl because it can be very noisy.



## What Are the Most Common UK Garden Birds?

The results of the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch in 2020 showed that the most common British bird was the house sparrow. Sparrows live together in big flocks and often make nests in house roofs.



house sparrow



Other common birds include the starling, blue tit, woodpigeon and blackbird.



**starling**



**blue tit**



**blackbird**



**woodpigeon**

### **Did You Know...?**

- Hedgehogs sleep for most of the winter, often in a nest of leaves. This is called hibernation. When they wake up in spring, they are very thirsty and hungry.
- A hedgehog out in the daytime might be ill so take it to a rescue or vet to be checked.
- Hedgehogs are now at risk of extinction in the UK. This sadly means there aren't many left in the wild. You can help them by letting your grass grow long, making a pile of old leaves and leaving water or cat food out for them.



# Questions

1. Which word describes animals that usually come out at night? Tick one.

- ☐ hibernate  
☐ birds  
☐ nocturnal

2. Fill in the missing word.

There are six types of British owl and one of the most common is the \_\_\_\_\_ owl.

3. Draw **three** lines and complete each sentence. One has been done for you.

|                                                     |                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Hedgehogs sleep for most of the winter, often in... | will help hedgehogs. |
| When they wake up in spring, they are very...       | a nest of leaves.    |
| If you make a pile of old leaves, it...             | cat food.            |
| You can feed hedgehogs...                           | thirsty and hungry.  |

4. Find and copy one word which tells you why hedgehogs waking up in spring want to drink water.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Which birds live in large flocks and often make nests in house roofs?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. There is a hedgehog in your garden at lunchtime. Is the hedgehog OK?  
Explain how you know.

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# Answers

1. Which word describes animals that usually come out at night? Tick one.

- ☐ hibernate  
☐ birds  
☒ **nocturnal**

2. Fill in the missing word.

There are six types of British owl and one of the most common is the **barn** owl.

3. Draw **three** lines and complete each sentence. One has been done for you.

|                                                     |                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Hedgehogs sleep for most of the winter, often in... | will help hedgehogs. |
| When they wake up in spring, they are very...       | a nest of leaves.    |
| If you make a pile of old leaves, it...             | cat food.            |
| You can feed hedgehogs...                           | thirsty and hungry.  |

4. Find and copy one word which tells you why hedgehogs waking up in spring want to drink water.

**thirsty**

5. Which birds live in large flocks and often make nests in house roofs?

**House sparrows live in large flocks and often make nests in house roofs.**

6. There is a hedgehog in your garden at lunchtime. Is the hedgehog OK?  
Explain how you know.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the hedgehog is not OK because if a hedgehog is out at lunchtime, it might be ill. It needs to be checked by a vet.**