MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

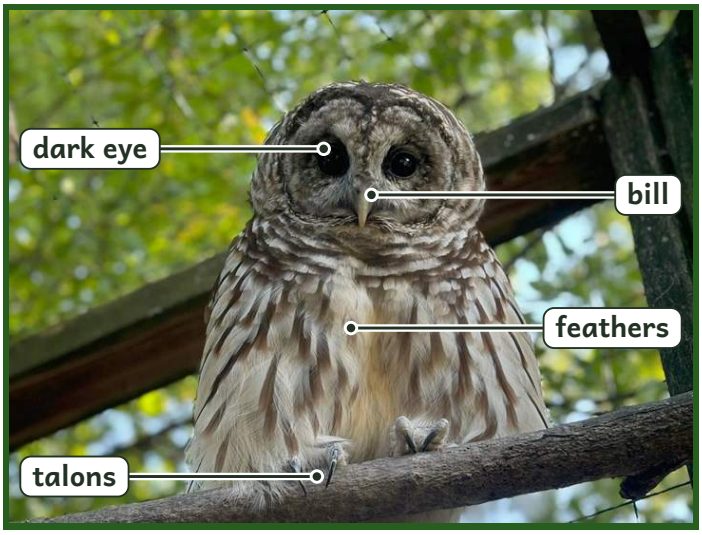
BARRED OWL

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GRADES K–2

Teacher & Student Fact Sheet · © 2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.
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Teachers: read this page aloud, one part at a time (about 5 minutes). Children follow along and say the bold words.



An owl sits on a branch among the leaves.

Its body

A barred owl has dark eyes.
Its sharp claws are **talons**.
It can turn its head far around.

Its home (habitat)

It lives in the woods.
It stays near water.
It rarely moves far.
Bebo lives at our zoo.



■ Lives in parts of this area ★ Plumpton Park Zoo, Rising Sun, MD

Its food

It hunts mice and squirrels.
It eats frogs and birds too.
It swallows small food whole.

Its babies (life cycle)

A young owl can climb a tree.
It holds on with its bill and talons.
It flaps its wings as it climbs.

Fun facts

Its call sounds like a question.
It says, “Who cooks for you?”
It is awake mostly at night.

Words to know

talons: an owl’s sharp claws
bill: a bird’s beak

Talk about it

1. What does a barred owl’s call sound like?
2. How do talons help an owl?
3. How does a young owl climb a tree?

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/birds/barred-owl/ · **Sources:** Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Partners in Flight; Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research; Plumpton Park Zoo records.
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: K-LS1-1 (3.1.K.A)
Plumpton Park Zoo · 1416 Telegraph Rd, Rising Sun, MD 21911 · (410) 658-6850 · plumptonparkzoo.org · a 501(c)(3) nonprofit zoo · Photo: Plumpton Park Zoo

BARRED OWL

Before and after your visit

GRADES K–2

Page 2 of the barred owl fact sheet for grades K–2 · © **2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.**
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Name _____ **Date** _____

Before you visit · 5 minutes

What do you think? Circle **YES** or **NO**.

1. A barred owl has dark eyes. **YES** **NO**
2. A barred owl eats only plants. **YES** **NO**
3. Its sharp claws are talons. **YES** **NO**
4. It flies far away each winter. **YES** **NO**

At the zoo · with a partner

Check each one you see.

- ☐ dark eyes
- ☐ bill
- ☐ talons
- ☐ feathers
- ☐ wings
- ☐ a branch

What is it doing? Circle one.

resting · watching · flying · eating

After your visit · 10 minutes

Draw an owl on a branch at night. Show its talons.

Draw here

An owl has _____

I learned that _____

ADJUST IT Kindergarten: read everything aloud; children talk and draw, and an adult writes their words. **Grade 2:** children read page 1 on their own. **Grades 3–5:** use the regular barred owl sheet on Teacher Resources. **Second source:** read about this animal in your class database or a library book too, then ask what both said and what was new. **No zoo trip?** Check off what you can find in the photo on page 1. **Answers:** 1 yes, 2 no, 3 yes, 4 no.

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/birds/barred-owl/ · Page 1 of this sheet has the words and picture this page refers to.
Science, grades K–1: Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): K-LS1-1 · Pennsylvania (STEELS): 3.1.K.A
Reading and writing, grade 1: Maryland and Delaware: RI.1.1 · RI.1.7 · RI.1.9 · W.1.8 · Pennsylvania: CC.1.2.1.B · CC.1.2.1.G · CC.1.2.1.I · CC.1.4.1.W
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