MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

SNOWY OWL

Bubo scandiacus

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.



This is Hedwig at our zoo.

Its body

It has golden eyes.
Thick white feathers keep it warm.
Feathers cover its feet.
Females keep dark marks.

Its home (habitat)

It lives in the far north.
It lives on cold, open land.
Hedwig lives at our zoo.
A fan helps keep her cool.



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

Its food

It hunts lemmings and voles.
It eats birds too.
It hunts by day and by night.

Its babies (life cycle)

A baby owl is a **chick**.
The nest is on the ground.
Chicks need food from their parents.

Fun facts

Males get whiter as they grow.

Words to know

chick: a baby bird
lemming: a small animal like a mouse
vole: a small animal like a mouse

Talk about it

1. How do thick feathers help a snowy owl?
2. When does it hunt?
3. Why does Hedwig have a fan?

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/birds/snowy-owl/ · **Sources:** Cornell Lab of Ornithology; IUCN Red List (2021); BirdLife International; Plumpton Park Zoo.
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: K-LS1-1 (3.1.K.A) · 1-LS1-2 (3.1.1.B)
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SNOWY OWL

Before and after your visit

GRADES K–2

Page 2 of the snowy 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 snowy owl has golden eyes. **YES** **NO**
2. It hunts only at night. **YES** **NO**
3. Its nest is on the ground. **YES** **NO**
4. Its feet have no feathers. **YES** **NO**

At the zoo · with a partner

Check each one you see.

- ☐ golden eyes
- ☐ beak
- ☐ white feathers
- ☐ dark marks
- ☐ feathered feet
- ☐ talons

What is it doing? Circle one.

watching resting eating

After your visit · 10 minutes

Draw a snowy owl on the snow. Show its golden eyes.

Draw here

A snowy 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 snowy 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/snowy-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 · 1-LS1-2 · Pennsylvania (STEELS): 3.1.K.A · 3.1.1.B
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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