

Snout wonders how much you know about tawny owls!



Below are some questions that a child may ask when reading the story.

Or some questions you may want to ask them, so they learn some more about Tawny Owls.

Where does a tawny owl live and sleep?

They prefer to roost (rest) in holes in trees in woodlands. However, they will rest in urban areas too, where there are trees. They can be found nesting in squirrel drays (name for a squirrel nest) and crows' nests if tree holes are not available.

What do they eat?

They eat small mammals, namely Wood Mice and Bank Voles and if there are fields nearby, maybe field voles. They have also been known to take rabbits, moles, small birds, beetles, earthworms, frogs and even fish! They eat their prey whole – bones and all!

How do they get rid of the bones from their food?

Owls are unable to digest the fur and bones of their prey, which they swallow whole.

They regurgitate (coughed up) bones and fur in the form of a pellet. After feeding, producing a pellet takes 6 hours or more.

A Tawny owl will generally regurgitate a large pellet before leaving the nest at night to find food and a smaller one before going back to bed.

Pellets often contain the remains of 4 or 5 small mammals. If you soak a pellet in water and then gently pull it apart, you can find the bones of the animals they have eaten.