



# Marvelous Mammals!



**Classification** is the grouping of similar things. We group all sorts of things! What grade are you in? Do you study different subjects? These are classifications (or groups!) In this activity you're going to **classify** the mammals depending on when they are active.

Animals can be classified as **Nocturnal** (asleep during the day and active at night,) **Diurnal** (asleep at night and active during the day,) and **Crepuscular** (active at dawn and dusk, sleeping in between.)

Use your detective skills to figure out how each mammal should be classified as **Nocturnal, Diurnal,** or **Crepuscular**. Then think about the advantages of each animal being active at that time of day.



## Gray Fox

**Habitat:** Forest

**Diet:** Birds, eggs, insects, smaller mammals, and some plants and berries!

**Classified as:** \_\_\_\_\_

**What are the advantages for this animal in its classification?**

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## Virginia Opossum

**Habitat:** Forest

**Diet:** Insects, smaller mammals, carrion, seeds, nuts, and fruit!

**Classified as:** \_\_\_\_\_

**What are the advantages for this animal in its classification?**

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## Little Brown Bat

**Habitat:** Forest

**Diet:** Insects!

**Classified as:** \_\_\_\_\_

**What are the advantages for this animal in its classification?**

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## Gray Squirrel

**Habitat:** Forest

**Diet:** Insects, seeds, grains, and fruit!

**Classified as:** \_\_\_\_\_

**What are the advantages for this animal in its classification?**

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## Sea Otter

**Habitat:** Ocean

**Diet:** Crabs, mussels, fish, and sea urchins!

**Classified as:** \_\_\_\_\_

**What are the advantages for this animal in its classification?**

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## Answers



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Use your detective skills to figure out how each mammal should be classified as **Nocturnal, Diurnal, or Crepuscular**. Then think about the advantages of each animal being active at that time of day.

*\*Answers will vary.*



### Gray Fox

**Habitat:** Forest

**Diet:** Birds, eggs, insects, smaller mammals, and some plants and berries!

Classified as: Crepuscular

**What are the advantages for this animal in its classification?**

*Because they are active during dawn and dusk they can still use some sunlight to hunt and search for food. It also is not so bright that they would be spotted right away by their prey.*



### Virginia Opossum

**Habitat:** Forest

**Diet:** Insects, smaller mammals, carrion, seeds, nuts, and fruit!

Classified as: Nocturnal

**What are the advantages for this animal in its classification?**

*Since the opossum is prey for many animals searching for food at night is a good way to avoid predators. They also are mainly scavengers so there is still plenty of food at night for them.*





## Little Brown Bat

**\*Answers will vary.**

**Habitat:** Forest

**Diet:** Insects!

**Classified as:** Nocturnal

**What are the advantages for this animal in its classification?**

Since the bat eats primarily insects it is better to be active at night when many insects are active. Such as mosquitos!



## Gray Squirrel

**Habitat:** Forest

**Diet:** Nuts, seeds, grains, and fruit!

**Classified as:** Diurnal

**What are the advantages for this animal in its classification?**

They find their main source of food with their eyes, so it makes sense that they use the time of day with the most sunlight to help them search and cache their food.



## Sea Otter

**Habitat:** Ocean

**Diet:** Crabs, mussels, fish, and sea urchins!

**Classified as:** Diurnal

**What are the advantages for this animal in its classification?**

Their food is easier to find if they have some sunlight filtering down through the kelp forest. It's also easier to keep a lookout for potential predators when theirs light out.



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