

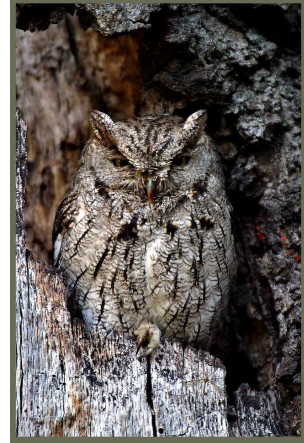


Wildlife Ambassadors

During the WildCare visit, we talked about many animal **adaptations** (behaviors or special parts that animals have to help them survive in the wild). One exciting adaptation is when animals have certain colors to help them blend in to the wild. This is called **camouflage**. Camouflage can help an animal hide from predators or help an animal sneak up on its prey.

Screech Owls are masters at camouflage!

Their mix of black, grey, brown, and white patterned feathers helps these small birds completely blend in to the bark of the trees they sit in. Screech Owls can be found in a variety of different habitats. A **habitat** is the type of place where an animal lives in the wild, such as forests, deserts, or grasslands.



For this activity, you will need to cut out the outline of the owl on the following page. Color in your owl so that it will camouflage with a specific spot in the classroom. This spot **MUST** be visible to someone walking into the room, so not behind something or under something. Try to color it to match its surroundings perfectly.

Then split into two groups. One group will wait with eyes covered or out in the hallway while the other group tapes up their camouflaged owls to their chosen spot. Let the outside group back in and see how long it takes for all of the owls to be discovered. Then you can switch and test the second group's searching skills!

**In the wild, owls have adapted over time to perfectly blend in to their habitat.
If something begins to change it, what might happen to the owls?**

Write one reason why an owl's habitat may begin to change:

Write what you think might happen to the owls living in the habitat:

What is one thing **YOU** can do to help make sure big changes do not happen to habitats?



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