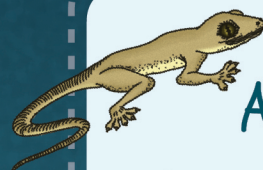
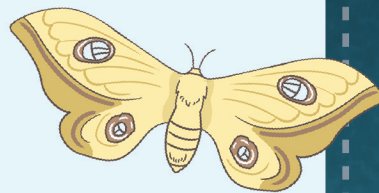


# CREATURES OF THE NIGHT



## A Dark Advantage

Some animals would rather enjoy the cool of the night than swelter in the heat of the day.



But that's not the only reason animals prefer the dark. By being nocturnal they can avoid predators and competitors for food that are active during the day. Nocturnal animals have all found ways to 'see' in the dark.



## Sixth Senses

**Owls** Owls have very large eyes and pupils. This way, even under low light conditions, more light enters their eyes.



**Bats** make sounds and wait for them to be reflected back from objects around them. This is how they judge how far away these objects are.



**Rats** use their whiskers to feel their way in the dark, much like we'd use our fingertips in a similar situation.



## For the Field Diary

**Shhh...**

In the silence of the night, switch off your fan and light for a couple of minutes and listen. If you live in a noisy locality where all you hear is traffic, ask an adult to accompany you on a walk to a quieter area a little after sunset.



### What do you hear?

How many different animal sounds do you hear? Mosquitoes, a gecko, a cricket, a toad perhaps? You may spot a bat hunting insects attracted to a streetlight, a moth, the dark shape of a flying fox (a large fruit-eating bat) in the sky, or an owl silently flying from tree to tree.

List all the animals you hear or see. If you can't identify something you hear or see, write to [edu@ncf-india.org](mailto:edu@ncf-india.org) with a description or a recording.



## WRITE TO US!

Have you observed any nocturnal creatures around you?

Send us notes from your field diary and drawings at [edu@ncf-india.org](mailto:edu@ncf-india.org)!

