

Egg to Owl

Summary

Living things have different life cycles. A barn owl's life cycle begins with an egg. Adult barn owls protect the eggs and keep them warm. When an egg hatches, an owlet emerges. It is small and covered with down. After a week, the down falls off and a thicker down grows. The owlet grows bigger and stronger. At about seven weeks, the owlet fledges, or grows adult feathers. Once an owlet has adult feathers, it is ready to fly. Barn owls are nocturnal. They hunt at night. When they are about a year old, the owls begin looking for their own nests.

Before Reading

Take a Picture Walk

Build background for the book by taking a picture walk with children. Discuss the pictures and preview the key vocabulary and concepts. Invite children to share what they know about owls.

Vocabulary

larva, life cycle, pupa, seed coat, seedling, tadpole, down, fledge, hatch, nest, nocturnal, owlet

Comprehension Skill: Put Things in Order

Say: All living things have life cycles that tell how they grow and change. Life cycles happen in a certain order. Birds begin their life cycles as eggs. Think about the life cycle of barn owls as you read.

During Reading

Think Critically

Have children answer the *What Did You Learn?* questions located on the inside back cover of their book.

- 1. What is an owlet?** An owlet is a young owl.
- 2. How old are owls when they are ready to fly?** Owls are about eight or nine weeks old when they are ready to fly.

After Reading

Writing in Science

Owls lay eggs in nests. Write to tell the places their nests can be. Use words from the book as you write.

Organize Information

Graphic Organizer: Put Things in Order
Have children complete the Put Things in Order chart on the BLM for this Leveled Reader to describe the changes barn owls go through in their life cycle.

Related Resources

Vocabulary Cards	Equipment Kit
Every Student Learns	Activity Flipchart
Quick Study	LabZone
Big Book of Science Songs and CD	
Graphic Organizer Transparencies	
Quick Activity Transparency	
www.pearsonsuccessnet.com	

Write your answers.

1. Where do barn owls nest?
Barn owls use the nests they find. They may nest in caves, trees, or in building roofs.
2. How does down help an owlet?
Down helps protect an owlet until its adult feathers grow in.
3. What happens when an owlet fledges?
An owlet grows adult feathers when it fledges.
4. Name some of the changes owls go through in their life cycle. Describe these changes in the order that they happen. Use the graphic organizer to help you.

Possible answer:

Put Things in Order

First

An owlet hatches from an egg.



Next

An owlet has down that changes as it grows and changes.



Last

An owlet grows feathers and begins to learn to fly and hunt.