

Nature 2 U (On-Site or Outreach Program) – Nocturnal Animals: Nature Exploration

Topics covered: Meet the animals of the night. Learn all about the special characteristics of nocturnal animals – how they live in the dark.

Ages: PK – 8th

Purchase Details: \$6 per student

Programs can be reserved by phone: 901-636-2221
Tuesday - Friday, sessions by appointment

Objectives:

1. Learn about adaptations that allow nocturnal animals to see and hunt in the dark.
2. Listen to and identify the calls of some nocturnal animals.
3. Meet live animals.

Vocabulary: adjusted for specific grade levels

nocturnal	insectivore
diurnal	adaptation
crepuscular	burrow
echolocation	tapetum lucidum
marsupial	receptors
omnivore	prehensile
carnivore	

Fun Facts:

- Nocturnal animals are animals that are active at night. Diurnal animals are active during the day. Crepuscular animals are active at dusk and dawn.
- Some nocturnal animals have a special reflective surface in their eyes called a tapetum lucidum which helps them see better at night. This is what makes a dog's eyes "glow in the dark."
- There are several reasons why animals are nocturnal: to avoid predators, to stay cool, or for less competition.
- Some nocturnal animals can function in complete darkness. Scientists are still learning about these animals because their behavior has never been observed.

Web Resources:

Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency – www.tn.gov/twra.html

Tennessee Wildlife Federation – www.tnwf.org

Exhibit Information at Lichterman Nature Center – www.memphismuseums.org/lichterman-nature-center/

TWRA Bats of Tennessee – <https://www.tn.gov/twra/wildlife/mammals/mammals-bats.html>

Where: Lichterman Nature Center Amphitheater or classrooms

When: Year-round, Tuesday – Friday, sessions by appointment

- **Standards:**
 - **(Grade Level)** PK - 8
- **Tennessee: (Life Science)**
 - LS (1-4), ETS2
- **Mississippi: (Life Science)**
 - L (1-4), E (9-10)
- **Arkansas**
 - LS 1, 2, 3, 4