

Meet nature's nocturnal stars

While you're tucked up in bed, lots of animals are very much awake and active. These cool creatures often have special skills that help them navigate the night. By taking part in Big Wild Sleepout you too are a night-time explorer!

Make sure you fill in your own card. What's your special skill?

Hedgehog, bat by Fotolia, fox by Shutterstock, badger by Mike Lane, owl by Nigel Blake (rspb-images.com). The RSPB is a registered charity in England & Wales 207076, in Scotland SC037654. 364-0090-17-18.

Hedgehog

Nickname: Butterbump



Size

20–30cm

I like to eat

Slugs, beetles and worms

Special skills

Curling up into a spiky ball.

Cool critter fact

A hedgehog can have up to 7,000 spines – a great defence against any predator that might want to eat it.

Fox

Nickname: Tod



Size

50–80cm

I like to eat

Anything! Worms, insects, berries, small mammals and birds

Special skills

Super hearing. Foxes can hear a watch ticking from over 30 metres away.

Cool critter fact

Foxes are the most widespread carnivore in the world – stretching from the cold north where Arctic foxes are found, through to the desert dwelling fennec foxes of Africa.

Badger

Nickname: Earthdog



Size

67–90cm

I like to eat

Worms, berries, slugs

Special skills

Powerful jaws – their teeth would leave a mark on a steel spade.

Cool critter fact

Badgers like honey. They use their strong claws and powerful legs to dig up bee and wasp larvae.

Barn owl

Nickname: Billy Wix



Size

85–93cm wingspan

I like to eat

Voles, mice and shrews

Special skills

Silent flight. All the better for catching voles and mice!

Cool critter fact

Barn owls have lop-sided ears. One is higher than the other, which helps them work out exactly where sound is coming from.

Pipistrelle bat

Nickname: Airy-mouse



Size

19–25cm wingspan

I like to eat

Insects

Special skills

Echolocation. To find their food, bats emit a sound and by listening to the sound as it bounces off objects around it, they detect what's out there.

Cool critter fact

One bat can eat more than 3,000 insects in one night.

You

Nickname:

Size

I like to eat

Special skills

Cool critter fact