

## Wolter's Story and Quiz

*Note for teachers: The following is based on a true story about a small Barn Owl who was rescued by a concerned member of the public and taken to an owl sanctuary to be rehabilitated. It includes some useful owl facts and has been designed to help children to learn about owls.*

Once upon a time there was a little Barn Owl called Wolter, who lived in a big old farm building near a place called Bury St Edmunds.

Wolter's barn was cosy and he was very lucky, because the farmer who owned the barn liked Wolter being there. The little barn owl was very good at catching mice and voles and shrews with his sharp talons, which helped to keep them away from the farmer's crops.

One day, Wolter was sitting in his barn watching the world go by. Although he was only just a few months old, he could look after himself and it would soon be time for him to go out hunting.

Suddenly, the sky began to darken and a wild wind started to whip the autumnal leaves from the trees. In no more than the blink of a barn owl's dark eye, rain was lashing down. Wolter looked on interested. He'd never seen weather like this before! At last he decided he could wait no longer. He stretched his pale wings and swooped off into the dusk.

DISASTER! Poor Wolter had no idea that he would be blown and buffeted from side to side and from here to there by the cold, cruel wind. He was so confused, he had no idea at all where he was. And then it happened... BAM! An extra hard gust of wind snatched Wolter from the air and tossed him carelessly against the side of a house!

Poor Wolter slid to the ground and lay there stunned! But luck was on his side. Hearing a strange thud, the lady who lived in the house went to investigate. And there in her garden, she found the unfortunate Wolter. His gorgeous, golden brown feathers were ruffled and bedraggled and his beautiful, white heart-shaped face was turning black and blue - and red and yellow and purple and green.

Tenderly, the kind lady picked Wolter up and put him in a box, where she kept him safe, warm and quiet in her boiler room.

The next day, Wolter was feeling very poorly and his head was very sore, so the lady put him in her car and took him to a special place called an Owl Sanctuary, where they look after all sorts of owls and raptors (birds of prey). The people there were very worried about Wolter. Could they make him better? He looked as though he'd been in a boxing match, which as we all know is not something owls are supposed to do!

What do you think happened to Wolter?

Well, for a few days, he did feel very sorry for himself. But Wolter is a tough little chap and with lots of help and care from the vet and the people at the sanctuary, Wolter soon began to feel much better.

Then one day, Wolter was well enough to fly free and went back to live happily in his barn, where the farmer was very glad to see him indeed!



## Wolter's Quiz

*Note for teachers: The following questions are based on the information in Wolter's Story and are designed to help children to learn about owls and other raptors, as part of the KS1 Science Curriculum*

- 1) What kind of owl is Wolter?
- 2) Where does Wolter live?
- 3) Why do farmers like owls?
- 4) Name one kind of prey Wolter is good at catching.
- 5) What does Wolter use to catch his prey?
- 6) Even though he was only a few months old, did Wolter need his mum to look after him?
- 7) What colour are Wolter's eyes?
- 8) What colour are Wolter's feathers?
- 9) What shape is Wolter's face?
- 10) Name one of the things the lady did to keep Wolter safe.

Extension questions:

- A) What kind of place could you take an injured owl to?
- B) What is the special name we give to birds of prey?

ANSWERS:

1. A Barn Owl
  2. In a barn
  3. Because owls help to keep mice etc away from the crops
  4. Mice/voles/shrews
  5. His sharp talons
  6. No – he could take care of himself
  7. Dark
  8. Golden brown
  9. Heart shaped
  10. Put him in a box/kept him quiet/kept him warm
- A) Bird Sanctuary/Vet
  - B) Raptor

