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**READING FOR
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美国中小學生拓展讀本

阅读广角

Level 2C

Life Science & Health

生命科学 & 健康



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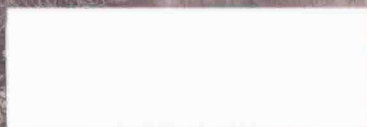
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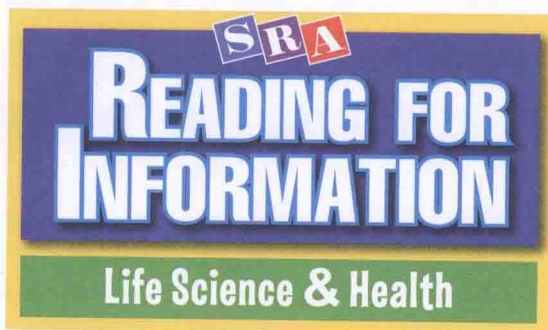



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SRA
LIFE SCIENCE

Environments in Action



Before You Read

Here are some things you can do to help you read for information.

Features **Glossary**

Turn to the glossary on page 22. In the glossary you can find information about each vocabulary word.

How to say the word	What kind of word it is
<p>Glossary</p> <p>adaptation /ˌædæp'teɪʃn/ <i>n.</i> a characteristic that helps a living thing survive 适应 A wing is an adaptation that helps a bird fly.</p>	
Definition	Example sentence

Structures **Description**

As you read, look for words that describe how something looks, tastes, sounds, smells, or feels.

These adjectives describe what the bird looks like.

He pointed to a **large, reddish-brown** bird sitting on a tree branch.

Vocabulary Words to Know



.....**adaptation** a characteristic that helps a living thing survive

.....**competition** the struggle among living things for limited resources, such as food, water, and space

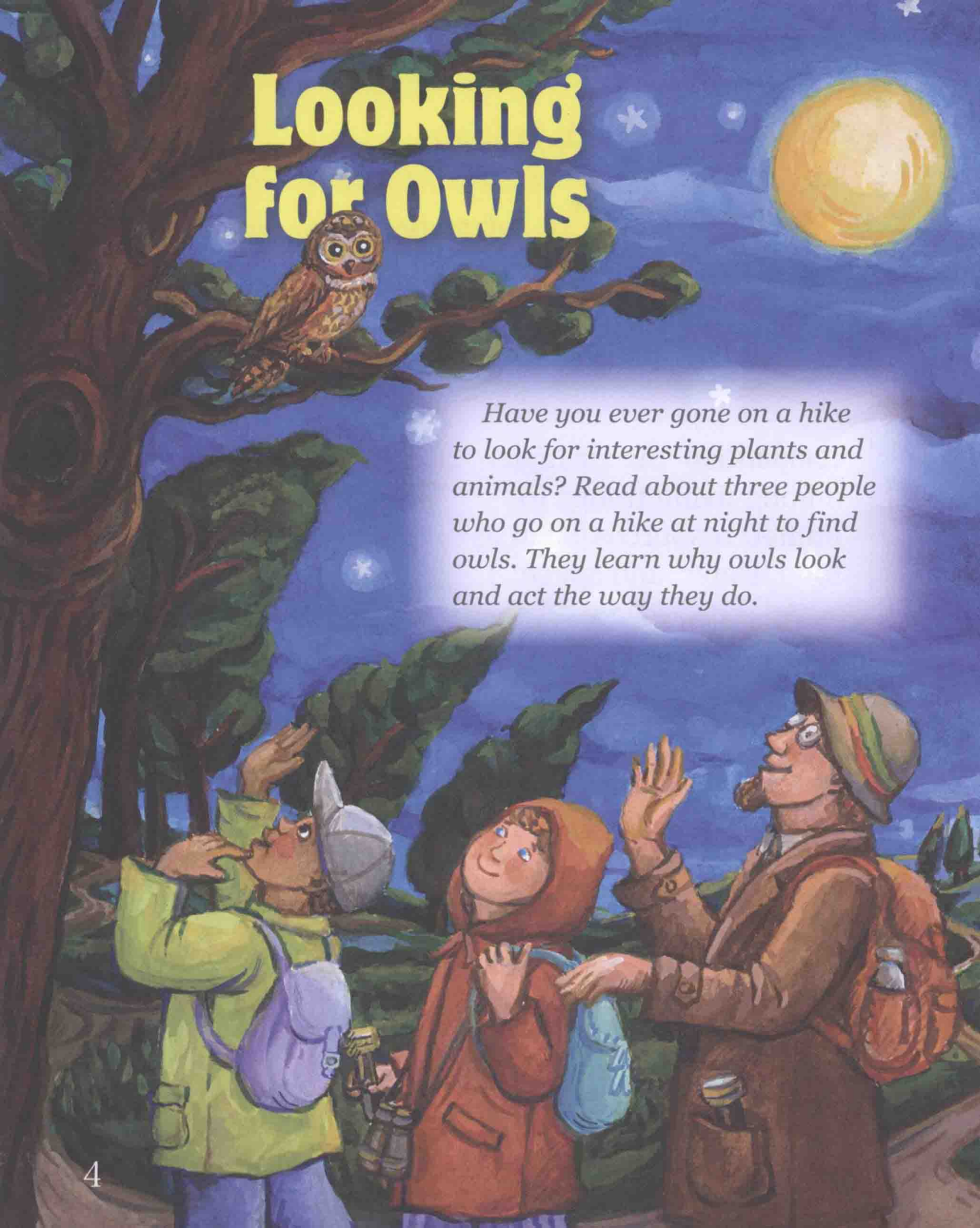


.....**ecosystem** all of the living and nonliving things in an environment and all of their interactions

.....**useful** serving a use or purpose

A flashlight is **useful** for seeing in the dark.



An illustration of three hikers at night. A man with a beard and glasses, wearing a brown jacket and a hat, stands on the right, gesturing upwards. A woman in a red hooded jacket and a child in a green jacket and white cap stand on the left, also looking up. In the upper left, an owl is perched on a tree branch. The background features a large tree, a full moon, and a starry night sky.

Looking for Owls

Have you ever gone on a hike to look for interesting plants and animals? Read about three people who go on a hike at night to find owls. They learn why owls look and act the way they do.

A Night Hike

“Brrr!” said Carl.
“It’s cold!”

Joe, Carl, and
Joe’s dad were hiking
at night. They were
looking for owls.



“Why do owls come out at night?” asked Carl.

“Yeah,” said Joe. “It’s so dark. I’m glad we
brought our flashlight.”

Birds of the Night

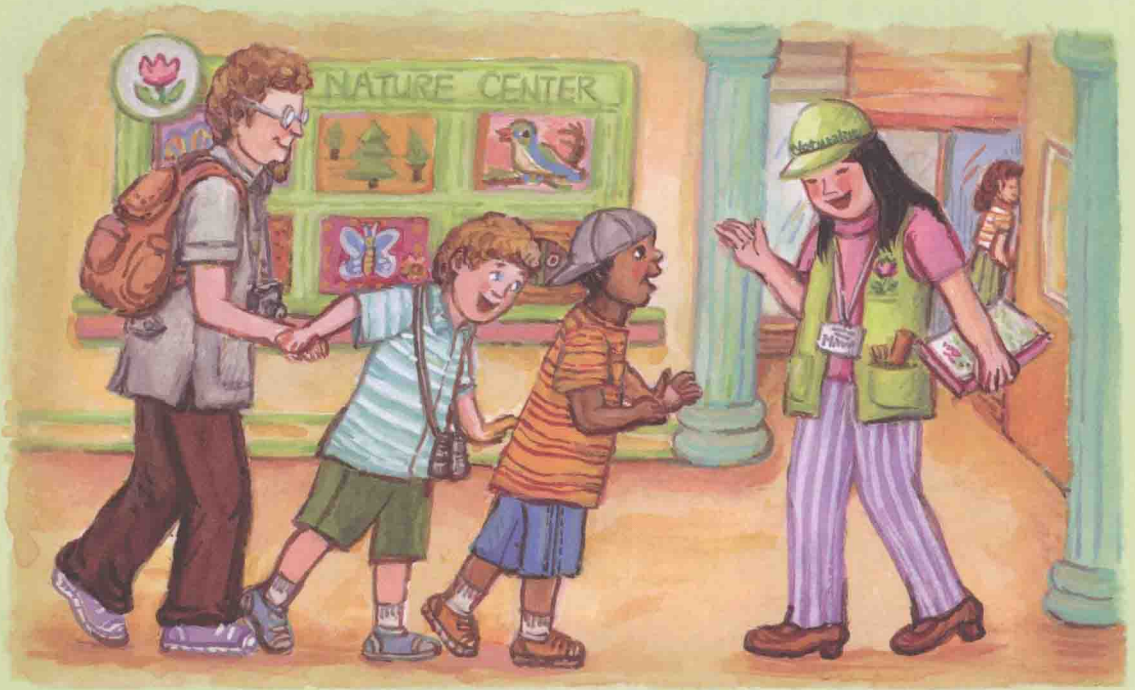
“Most owls hunt at night,” explained Joe’s dad.
“That’s because they can see well in the dark.
Their ability to see in the dark is an **adaptation**.”

Just then an owl flew over their heads. Its
wings did not make a sound.

“Wow!” said Carl. “I didn’t even hear it coming!”

“Owls can fly silently because their feathers
have soft edges,” said Joe’s dad.

They decided to go to the nature center the
next day to look at owls up close.



A Place for Answers

As Joe, Carl, and Joe's dad walked into the nature center, a woman greeted them.

"Hi," said the woman. "I'm Mindy. I can answer any questions you have about the nature center."

"Where are the owls?" asked Carl and Joe at the same time.

"Follow me," said Mindy, cheerfully.

Birds That Hunt

Mindy led them outside to a large, enclosed area.

“Our large owls live here,” said Mindy.

“I see one!” exclaimed Carl. He pointed to a large, reddish-brown bird sitting on a tree branch.

“That’s a great horned owl,” said Mindy.

“Wow! Its claws look so sharp,” said Joe.

“An owl’s sharp claws are an adaptation,” explained Mindy. “They’re **useful** for hunting.”



Different Sizes of Owls

“Let’s go to see the smaller owls,” said Mindy. Everyone followed her into a dark building.

“This is called a screech owl,” she said, pointing to a small, gray owl staring at them from behind the glass.

“It’s a lot smaller than the great horned owl,” observed Joe.

“Its smaller size helps it avoid **competition** for food with larger owls,” said Mindy.



Different Kinds of Food

“Great horned owls mainly eat rabbits and large rodents,” Mindy continued. “Screech owls mainly eat smaller animals, such as mice and insects. Owls can live in the same **ecosystem** because they don’t compete for the same kind of food.”

“Speaking of food, it’s time for lunch,” said Joe’s dad, smiling.

They thanked Mindy and decided to visit the nature center again next week.

✓ Comprehension
What do you think an ecosystem is?

