

GRADE
LEVELS
2ND - 4TH

Spooky Season
Meets Science!

HALLOWEEN ANIMALS

PASSAGES AND ACTIVITIES

PREVIEW

HALLOWEEN ANIMALS

ARTICLE & ACTIVITIES

Halloween Animals

Bats

Bats are the only mammals that can fly. They resemble vultures, with closed wings that are held out to the sides. They also have a unique ability to see in the dark. Their sharp teeth and wings have earned them a reputation as scary creatures over the years.



Wolves

Wolves are carnivores that hunt in packs. They are known for their howling and are often associated with Halloween. They are also known for their strength and speed.



Rats

Rats are known to live in dark, filthy, and unsanitary places. They are also known for their ability to survive in harsh conditions and are often associated with Halloween.



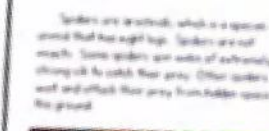
Owls

Owls are nocturnal birds with large eyes and sharp beaks. They are often associated with Halloween and are known for their ability to see in the dark.



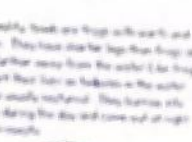
Spiders

Spiders are arachnids, which are a species of animal that has eight legs. Spiders are not insects. Some spiders are venomous, which makes people fear them and associate them with Halloween.



Toads

Toads are amphibians that can live on land and in water. They are often associated with Halloween and are known for their bumpy skin and long, thin legs.



Ravens

Ravens are one of the most intelligent species of birds. They are known for their ability to solve problems and are often associated with Halloween.

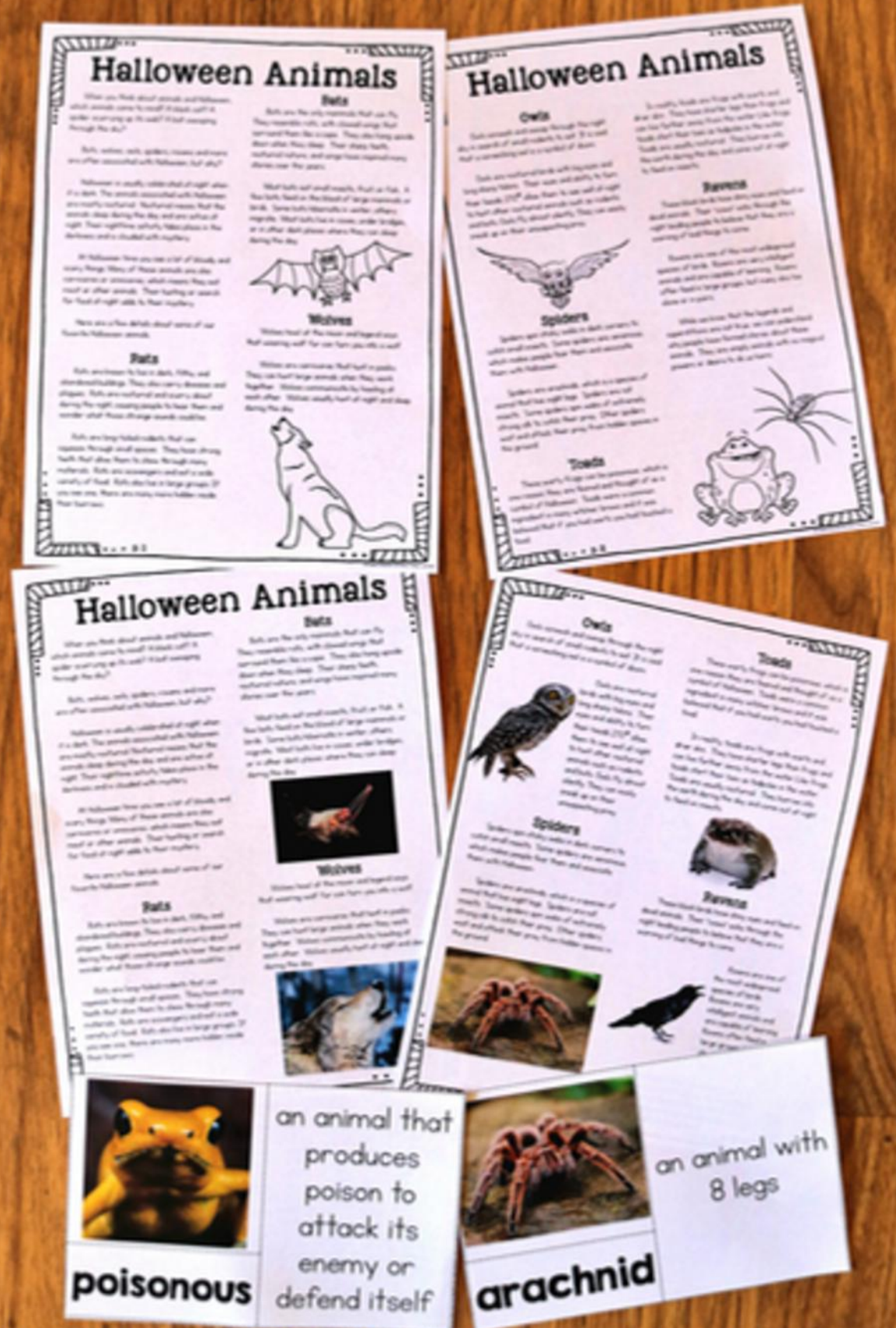


BAT · RAT · WOLF · OWL · SPIDER · TOAD · RAVEN

KEEP SCROLLING TO SEE
WHAT'S INSIDE!

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Two versions of a nonfiction bat article (color + B&W)
- Vocabulary word list and cut-and-paste activity
- Note-taking sheets and graphic organizers
- Comprehension questions and cloze reading activity
- Fact sort activity and writing pages
- Answer key
- QR codes and safe research links
- Google Slides version available



an animal that
eats dead
plants and
animals



scavenger



poisonous

an animal that
produces
poison to
attack its
enemy or
defend itself

VOCABULARY CARDS

Name: _____

Halloween Animals Vocabulary Activity

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

Picture	Word	Definition
		
		
		
		
		

Name: _____

Halloween Animals Vocabulary Activity

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

nocturnal	associated	animals that produce venom by biting or stinging	a group that live like c
carnivore	scavenger	an animal that eats dead plants and animals	an an
pack	communicate	an animal that produces poison to attack its enemy or defend itself	eats
prey	venomous	to connect two or more things together	th an
arachnid	poisonous	an animal that is hunted by predators	c

Name: _____

Halloween Animals Vocabulary Activity

Fill in the matrix for each word.

nocturnal

Definition	Characteristics
Examples	Non-Examples

associated

Definition	Characteristics
Examples	Non-Examples

**VOCABULARY
ACTIVITIES**

WITHOUT PHOTOS

WITH PHOTOS

While You're Reading

While You're

Mark with Symbols

- ! when you find something interesting
- ? when you are unsure or confused by something
- * when you find something important that you want to remember

Highlight with Colors

- yellow vocabulary words or key words
- green key phrases or definitions

Make Your Own Notations

- | symbol or color | meaning |
|-----------------|---------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Mark with Symbols

- ! when you find something interesting
- ? when you are unsure or confused by something
- * when you find something important that you want to remember

Highlight with Colors

- yellow vocabulary words or key words
- green key phrases or definitions

Make Your Own Notations

- | symbol or color | meaning |
|-----------------|---------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Halloween Animals

Bats

When you think about animals and Halloween, which animals come to mind? A black cat? A spider scurrying up its web? A bat swooping through the sky?

Bats, wolves, owls, spiders, ravens and more are often associated with Halloween, but why?

Halloween is usually celebrated at night when it is dark. The animals associated with Halloween are mostly nocturnal. Nocturnal means that the animals sleep during the day and are active at night. Their nighttime activity takes place in the darkness and is clouded with mystery.

At Halloween time you see a lot of bloody and scary things. Many of these animals are also carnivores or omnivores, which means they eat meat or other animals. Their hunting or search for food at night adds to their mystery.

Here are a few details about some of our favorite Halloween animals.

Rats

Rats are known to live in dark, filthy, and abandoned buildings. They also carry diseases and plagues. Rats are nocturnal and scurry about during the night, causing people to hear them and wonder what those strange sounds could be.

Rats are long-tailed rodents that can squeeze through small spaces. They have strong teeth that allow them to chew through many materials. Rats are scavengers and eat a wide variety of food. Rats also live in large groups. If you see one, there are many more hidden in their burrows.

Bats are the only mammals that can fly. They resemble rats, with clawed wings that surround them like a cape. They also hang upside down when they sleep. Their sharp teeth, nocturnal nature, and wings have inspired many stories over the years.

Most bats eat small insects, fruit, or fish. A few bats feed on the blood of large mammals or birds. Some bats hibernate in winter; others migrate. Most bats live in caves, under bridges, or in other dark places where they can sleep during the day.



Wolves

Wolves howl at the moon and legend say that wearing wolf fur can turn you into a wolf.

Wolves are carnivores that hunt in packs. They can hunt large animals when they work together. Wolves communicate by howling at each other. Wolves usually hunt at night.



Halloween Animals

Bats

When you think about animals and Halloween, which animals come to mind? A black cat? A spider scurrying up its web? A bat swooping through the sky?

Bats, wolves, owls, spiders, ravens and more are often associated with Halloween, but why?

Halloween is usually celebrated at night when it is dark. The animals associated with Halloween are mostly nocturnal. Nocturnal means that the animals sleep during the day and are active at night. Their nighttime activity takes place in the darkness and is clouded with mystery.

At Halloween time you see a lot of bloody and scary things. Many of these animals are also carnivores or omnivores, which means they eat meat or other animals. Their hunting or search for food at night adds to their mystery.

Here are a few details about some of our favorite Halloween animals.

Rats

Rats are known to live in dark, filthy, and abandoned buildings. They also carry diseases and plagues. Rats are nocturnal and scurry about during the night, causing people to hear them and wonder what those strange sounds could be.

Rats are long-tailed rodents that can squeeze through small spaces. They have strong teeth that allow them to chew through many materials. Rats are scavengers and eat a wide variety of food. Rats also live in large groups. If you see one, there are many more hidden inside their burrows.



Wolves

Wolves howl at the moon and legend say that wearing wolf fur can turn you into a wolf.

Wolves are carnivores that hunt in packs. They can hunt large animals when they work together. Wolves communicate by howling at each other. Wolves usually hunt at night.



Owls

Owls screech and swoop through the night sky in search of small rodents to eat. It is said that a screeching owl is a symbol of doom.



Owls are nocturnal birds with big eyes and long sharp talons. Their eyes and ability to turn their heads 270° allow them to see well at night to hunt other nocturnal animals such as rodents and bats. Owls fly almost silently. They can easily sneak up on their unsuspecting prey.

Spiders

Spiders spin sticky webs in dark corners to catch small insects. Some spiders are venomous, which makes people fear them and associate them with Halloween.

Spiders are arachnids, which is a species of animal that has eight legs. Spiders are not insects. Some spiders spin webs of extremely strong silk to catch their prey. Other spiders wait and attack their prey from hidden spaces in the ground.



Toads

These warty frogs can be poisonous, which is one reason they are feared and thought of as a symbol of Halloween. Toads were a common ingredient in many witches' brews and it was believed that if you had warts you had touched a toad.

In reality, toads are frogs with warts and drier skin. They have shorter legs than frogs and can live further away from the water. Like frogs, toads start their lives as tadpoles in the water. Toads are usually nocturnal. They burrow into the earth during the day and come out at night to feed on insects.



Ravens

These black birds have shiny eyes and feed on dead animals. Their "caws" echo through the night leading people to believe that they are a warning of bad things to come.



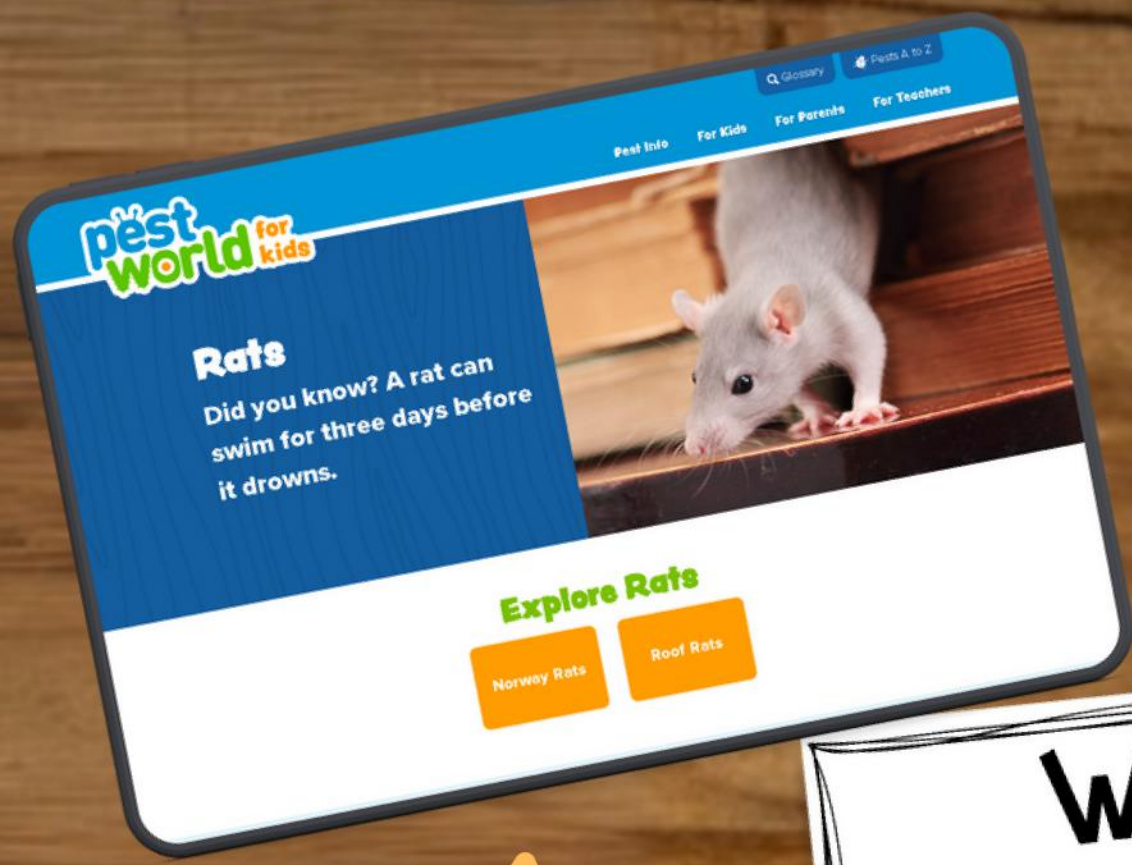
Ravens are one of the most widespread species of birds. Ravens are very intelligent animals and are capable of learning. Ravens often feed in large groups, but many also live alone or in pairs.

While we know that the legends and superstitions are not true, we can understand why people have formed stories about these animals. They are simply animals with no magical powers or desire to do us harm.

INFORMATIONAL
ARTICLE

CLOSE READING
BOOKMARK PAGE

WEBSITES



Halloween Animals Note Taking Sheet Name: _____

Why are these animals associated with Halloween?

Three Other Facts

Rats

Bats

Wolves

Note Taking Sheet Name: _____

Why are these animals associated with Halloween?

Describe one animal and its Halloween attributes:

Write three facts about three different animals:

Fact	Fact	Fact
------	------	------

When you think about Halloween, which animal do you think about? Why?

Other Information:

What I Remember About the Halloween Animals Name: _____

1. Why are rats, wolves, owls, spiders, toads, and ravens associated with Halloween?

2. Choose one animal and describe its attributes.

3. How are rats and wolves similar?

4. How are bats and owls different?

Halloween Animals Cloze Read Name: _____

Use the word bank to fill in the sentences.

webs	scavengers	night	packs
carnivores	warts	stories	nocturnal

When you think about animals and Halloween, which animals come to mind? A black cat? A spider scurrying up its web? Bats, wolves, owls, spiders, ravens are associated with Halloween, but why? Halloween is usually celebrated at _____ when it is dark. The animals associated with Halloween are mostly _____ animals sleep during the day and are active at night. Their nighttime activity takes place in the darkness and is clouded with mystery.

_____ or omnivores _____ most animals are also hunting or search for food at night adds to their mystery. _____ and feed on dead things. Bats _____ in dark caves during the day and fly at night in search of _____ by howling. Owls fly silently at night. Spiders spin sticky _____ hidden spaces. Toads have _____.

While we know that the legends and superstitions are not true, we can understand why people have formed _____ about these animals. They are simply animals with no magical powers or desire to do us harm.

NOTE TAKING SHEETS

COMPREHENSION ACTIVITIES

Directions: Cut apart the labels and each fact. Sort the fact into the best category or do an open sort and create your own categories.

Use the above categories as a set or the below categories as a set. Alternatively, create your own categories.

Attributes looks, has, is	Actions does, can	Environment where it lives
Rats are scavengers and eat a wide variety of food.	Owls fly almost silently. They can easily sneak up on their unsuspecting prey.	Rats are long-tailed rodents that can squeeze through small spaces.
Toads have shorter legs than frogs and can live further away from the water.	Halloween is usually celebrated at night when it is dark.	Some spiders spin webs of extremely strong silk to catch their prey.
Most bats roost in other dark places where they can sleep during the day.	Wolves communicate by howling.	Some birds eat small insects, fruit, or fish.
The animals associated with Halloween are mostly nocturnal.	Ravens are scavengers and so carry diseases and plagues.	Some birds have sharp talons.
Toads are usually nocturnal and burrow into the earth during the day and come out at night.	Wolves often feed in large groups, but many also live alone or in pairs.	Toads are frogs with warts and drier skin.
Spiders are arachnids, a species of animal that has eight legs.	Rats are known to live in dark, filthy, and abandoned buildings.	Rats have strong teeth that allow them to chew through many materials.
Wolves usually hunt at night and sleep during the day.	Wolves are carnivores that hunt in packs.	Other spiders wait and attack their prey from hidden spaces in the ground.

© Jessica Boschen • What I Have Learned



FACT
SORT

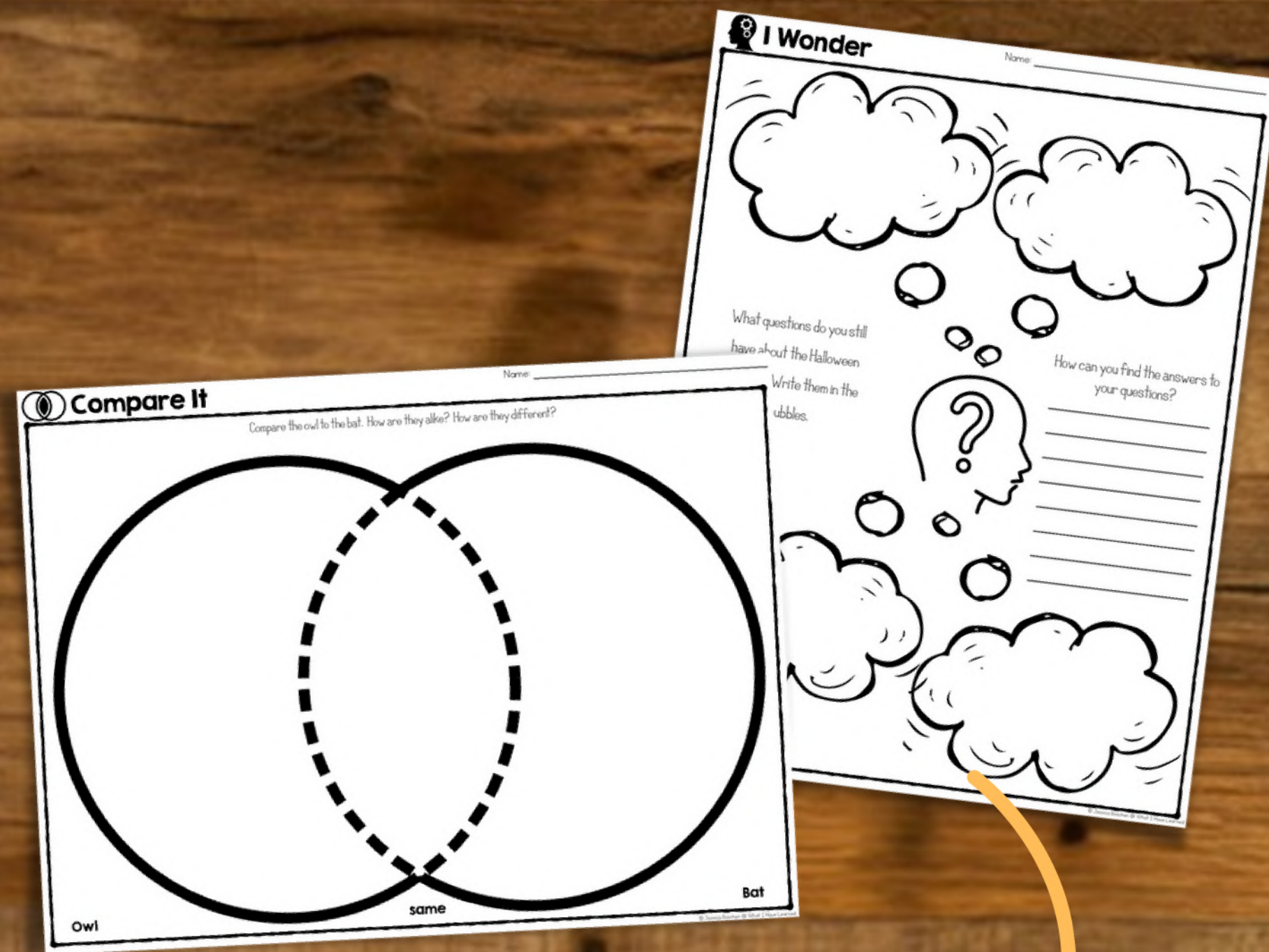
SAMPLE PROJECT FOR FACT SORT

While this is for a different animal, it gives you an idea of how students can do the fact sort.





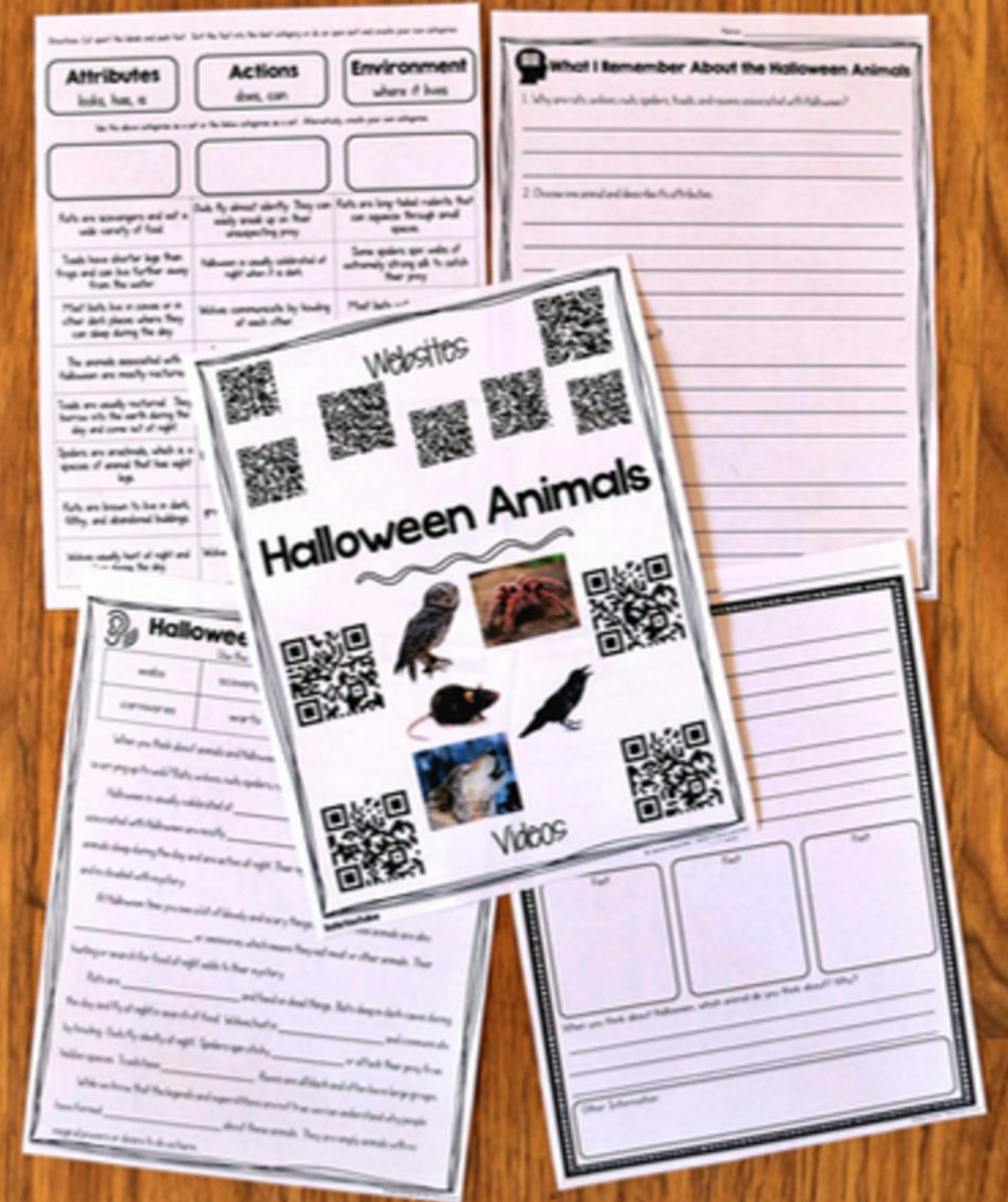
**SUMMARY PAGE AND
WRITING PAGES**



**GRAPHIC
ORGANIZER**

HOW TO USE IT IN THE CLASSROOM

- ✓ **Read & Explore** – Read the article, watch videos, scan QR codes
- ✓ **Build Vocabulary** – Use word cards, match-ups, and Frayer models
- ✓ **Comprehend & Sort** – Answer questions, do cloze reading, sort facts
- ✓ **Take Notes** – Fill graphic organizers with gathered research
- ✓ **Write a Report** – Draft reports using printables or digital slides

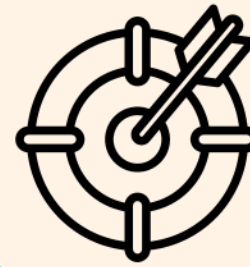


YOU WILL LOVE THIS BECAUSE



Seasonal Engagement

Halloween animals spark curiosity—students stay motivated while learning informational text skills through timely and thematic content.



Differentiated Learning

Two versions of the article, vocabulary activities, and comprehension questions ensure accessibility for diverse reading levels and learning needs.



Cross-Curricular Integration

Blends ELA and science seamlessly—building nonfiction reading comprehension while expanding knowledge of animals, habitats, and adaptations.

TEACHERS LOVE IT!



What a great way to make learning fun and interesting during Halloween! There are so many options of activities. The students especially love the websites.

Susan S.



My students loved these! We read about an animal a day then learned how to write an informative paragraph about each.

Tammy Noble



My passion is making learning accessible to all students. I love scaffolding learning. Breaking down the concepts and building them up so that students can see the connections. I love figuring out the small components that build up to the big ideas and helping students see it all.



What I have **LEARNED**