The Mystery of Day and Night Animals



Mia and Leo loved solving nature mysteries.

One afternoon, they visited Sunnybrook Park with Ranger Nina.

A squirrel dashed through the sunshine.

Later, an owl blinked awake as the sky turned dark.

‘Why is one animal busy in the day and another awake at night?’ Mia asked.

Ranger Nina smiled.

‘Today,’ she said, ‘we are going to solve that mystery.’

Science Fables

Diurnal



In the bright morning light, the squirrel leaped from branch to branch.

‘Animals that are active during the day are called diurnal,’ Ranger Nina explained.

Rabbits, squirrels, butterflies, and many birds are diurnal.

Daytime helps them find food, see clearly, and stay safe.

‘So diurnal means awake in the day,’ Leo said.

‘Exactly,’ said Ranger Nina.

Science Fables

Nocturnal



As evening came, the owl opened its wide eyes.

‘Animals that are active at night are called nocturnal,’ said Ranger Nina.

Owls, bats, raccoons, and many foxes are nocturnal.

The cool dark night is the best time for them to hunt or explore.

‘So nocturnal means awake at night,’ Mia said.

‘Yes,’ Ranger Nina replied.

Science Fables

Built for Night and Day



‘Nocturnal animals often have special features,’ Ranger Nina explained.
The owl’s large eyes and sharp hearing help it in the dark.
Diurnal animals use daylight to spot food and move quickly.
Each animal body is suited for the time it is most active.
‘Mystery clue!’ Leo said. ‘Their bodies match their schedule.’
Ranger Nina laughed. ‘That’s right.’

Science Fables

Mystery Solved



The sun set, and the park changed.

The squirrel tucked into its nest.

The owl watched the moonlit pond.

‘Diurnal animals are awake mostly in the day,’ said Mia.

‘Nocturnal animals are awake mostly at night,’ said Leo.

‘And both are perfectly designed for their own time,’ Ranger Nina said.

‘Mystery solved!’

Science Element



Diurnal animals are most active during the day.

Examples include squirrels, rabbits, butterflies, and many birds.

Nocturnal animals are most active at night.

Examples include owls, bats, raccoons, and many foxes.

Nocturnal animals may have large eyes, strong hearing, or a sharp sense of smell.

Simple idea: some animals are built for sunshine, and some are built for moonlight.

Science Fables