

Noisy // Nighttime Neighbors

Nighttime in nature is anything but quiet. On a summer evening, you might hear a variety of animals right in your neighborhood or backyard. What do you hear outside at night, and what do you think they're saying?

CRICKETS

Crickets chirp to attract mates and scare away competition by rubbing their textured wings together, a process known as stridulation (pronounced "strid-yuh-LAY-shun"). The warmer the weather, the faster the chirps. In fact, you can use the sound of crickets to estimate the temperature: Count the number of chirps you hear in 15 seconds, then add 40. That number should equal just about the current temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

FROGS

Each type of frog has its own particular call during breeding season. Listen for the calls of the frogs at right and join in the chorus!

OWLS

Owls have such amazing camouflage that you might walk by one sleeping in a tree during the day and never see it! Your best chance of knowing you have an owl nearby is by hearing it. If you're out at night, try mimicking owl calls to see if anyone calls back. For some owls, there are mnemonics (pronounced "nu-MON-icks") or memory phrases like the ones at right to help you remember what their call sounds like.

Visit massaudubon.org/youngexplorers to download a Night Sounds Bingo game card and listen to recordings of nighttime wildlife sounds.



