NOCTURNALS BINGO BOARDS







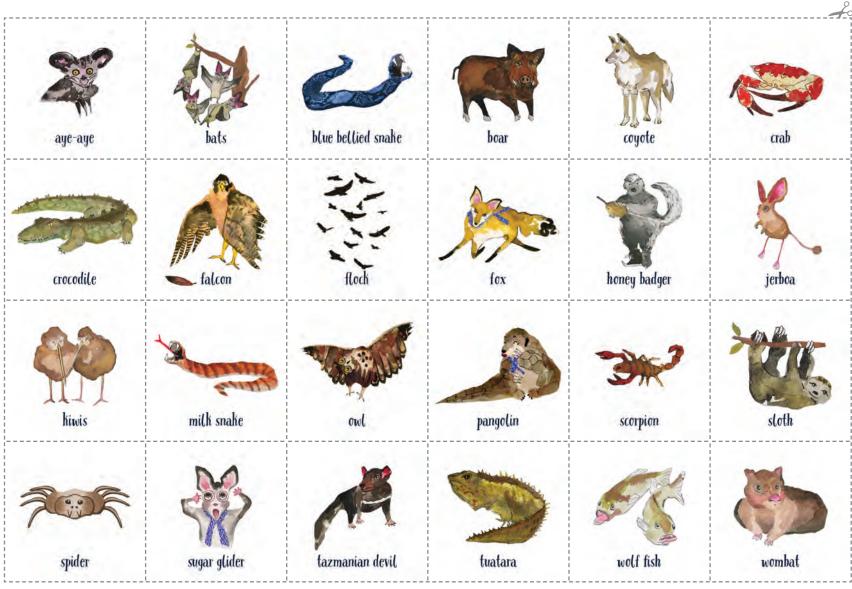




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NOCTURNALS BINGO CALL CARDS





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Wacky Animal Facts for The Nocturnals Bingo Game!

Welcome to *The Nocturnals* Bingo! Get ready to play games with some furry, and not-so-furry, friends. This bingo game is extra special because instead of having letters and numbers, each square has the name of an animal featured in *The Nocturnals* book series. The game features the three main characters: Dawn, a red fox; Bismark, a sugar glider; and Tobin, a pangolin. It also has all kinds of other creatures—bats, coyotes, crocodiles, and more—on the cards. We'll call out the name of each animal along with a fun fact about that species, and you can mark it on your board. Fill five squares in a row, and you're the winner!

Wacky Animal Facts

Pangolin

- Pangolins are covered in scales that look like armor, and while that may look strange, they're actually made of something called keratin. Take a look at your fingernails. Your nails are made of keratin, too, just like Tobin's scales!
- Just like skunks, pangolins spray something smelly when they feel threatened or scared. This keeps predators from getting too close.

Sugar Glider

- Unlike humans, sugar gliders don't need flashlights to see in the dark. Because their eyes are positioned on the side of their heads, they have excellent night vision.
- While playing in the mud might sound fun to you, sugar gliders hate being dirty.
 They're constantly cleaning their fur and polishing it using a special substance that comes out of their eyes.

Red Fox

- Red foxes are the largest species of fox, but they're still quick on their feet. They can run up to thirty-five miles per hour and can even climb onto the branches of trees as long as they're not too high up.
- Have you ever seen a dog bury a bone and come back to it later? Red foxes like to do this, too. They often hoard and store large amounts of food in different locations to find when they're hungry again.

Crocodile

- Dogs aren't the only animals that use barking to communicate—crocodiles make a similar noise. They use different barks to communicate all kinds of things, including a special bark to warn other crocodiles about danger.
- Sometimes all that swimming can make a crocodile cold.

 Instead of grabbing a towel to warm up, they like to lie in the sun on flat rocks near the water.



Nocturnals Bingo Wacky Animal Facts

Tuatara

- A tuatara might look like an ordinary reptile from far away, but if you look a little closer, you can see that the tuatara has something that sets it apart from other reptiles—a third eye on the top of its head.
- The name "tuatara" means "peaks on the back." These reptiles have small spikes running from the top of their necks to the end of their tails.

Aye-Aye

- Aye-ayes are known for their gigantic tails, which are often more than double the size of the rest of their body.
- Aye-ayes might look like rodents at first, but they're actually primates, which means that they're related to chimpanzees, apes, and even humans.

Kiwi

- Kiwis can't see as well as humans and have very poor eyesight. To identify their surroundings, they use their keen sense of smell and little whiskers on the base of their bill, which allow them to feel around.
- Unlike some social animals, kiwis are very shy and solitary. They travel in groups of six to twelve but like to seek shelter in their own burrows and will usually hide from other animals.

Tarantula (spider)

- Scared of a tarantula's bite? Don't be! A tarantula's main form of attack is shooting the tiny barbed hairs on its body at attackers.
- Tarantulas might look a little scary, but they're mostly harmless. A bite from a tarantula might hurt a little, like being stung by a bee, but it's not poisonous.

Blue-Bellied Snake

- These snakes might look a little scary, but they're not mean.

 Blue-bellied snakes are naturally shy and won't bite unless they're threatened.
- You won't find a
 Blue-bellied snake
 in your backyard or
 garden. Blue-bellied
 snakes are native to
 Australia and can be
 found in inland areas
 in the Southeast.

Bat

- If you snacked like a bat, you'd eat your weight in insects every day. An average bat can eat more than a thousand insects per hour. That's a lot of bugs!
- Some people think of bats as being related to vampires because they feed on blood, but most bats subsist on fruit and insects.

Scorpion

- Missing your nightlight? Scorpions glow blue underneath UV light because of fluorescent chemicals in their exoskeletons.
- Hungry? Scorpions can go six to twelve months without eating. They'll eat one huge meal and store it and burn it slowly over time.

Coyote

- While coyotes are known for being fast on land—they can run up to forty miles per hour—they're also great swimmers! They've even colonized islands!
- Coyotes have a hard time being quiet.
 They're known for their loud calls and make over eleven different noises with distinctive meanings.

Nocturnals Bingo Wacky Animal Facts

Jerboa

- Don't let size fool you! While the jerboa may only be a few inches tall, it can jump up to ten feet!
- Jerboas have excellent hearing and use sounds and even vibrations to understand their surroundings and to communicate.

Wombat

- Like many other nocturnal mammals, wombats could benefit from a pair of glasses. They have poor eyesight but make up for it with great hearing and a keen sense of smell.
- Wombats love being underground.
 They're known for constructing elaborate tunnel systems in the deep sand.

Falcon

- Falcons aren't picky about where they live. You can find them in forests, deserts, tundras, mountains, and just about everywhere else.
- A little-known fact about falcons is that they're excellent singers. Pairs of falcons are known for singing duets before sunrise as a way to let other falcons know where their territory is.

Owl

- If you try to do something sneaky behind an owl's back, chances are it'll catch you. Owls can rotate their heads 270 degrees, almost all the way around, so they don't miss a thing.
- Owls are known for swallowing their prey whole and then spitting up the bones later. Yuck!

Sloth

- Sloths aren't exactly full of energy. They sleep about fifteen hours a day.
- If you ever gave a sloth a lollipop to lick, it might be gone pretty quickly, since sloths can extend their tongues a full foot out of their mouths.

Tasmanian Devil

- Tasmanian devils are known for making loud shrieks and calls that can sound a little scary, which is partly why they're called "devils" in the first place.
- Tasmanian devils like to sleep under rocks or in caves, logs, and burrows. They can only be found in Tasmania, an island in Australia.

Boar

- You wouldn't want to give a piggyback ride to a boar. They can weigh over 600 pounds!
- Wild boars like to live in large groups of six to twenty, called sounders. Females are more likely to stick to the pack and protect their babies, while males tend to leave the sounder and venture out on their own.

Crab

- A lot of crabs walk sideways, which can look a little strange. However, some can walk forward and backward, and some crabs are great swimmers!
- A crab would make an excellent band member since crabs mostly communicate through drumming. They also snap and wave their pincers.

Nocturnals Bingo Wacky Animal Facts

Wolf Fish

- The wolf fish is not your average sea creature. Some species of wolf fish can be up to four feet long and way up to eighty-eight pounds.
- A dentist would have a hard time with a wolf fish since they have large fangs flanked by three rows of teeth on each jaw.

Milk Snake

- Milk snakes are on the larger side, growing up to sixty inches long. That's one big reptile!
- These creatures are called "milk" snakes because they're commonly found near barns, so farmers used to think they drank cows' milk.

Honey Badger

- Honey badgers have long claws on each of their four feet. These claws help them run quickly, scoop out fruit, and grab prey.
- These creatures are called honey badgers because they're known for preying on beehives and eating the bee eggs and honey inside.

Flock

- A flock of owls is called a parliament, but you won't see one very often. Owls are usually solitary creatures, preferring to spend time alone rather than in a flock.
- The term for a flock of vultures changes depending on what they're doing. Vultures in flight are called a kettle, those in trees are called a committee, and those that are eating are called a wake.

References and Helpful Links for More Information

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (http://www.iucnredlist.org/), the University of Michigan's Museum of Zoology Animal Diversity Web (http://animaldiversity.org/), Science Kids (www.sciencekids.co.nz/), Animal Planet (www.animalplanet.com), Animal Corner (http://animalcorner.co.uk/), Live Science (www.livescience.com), the World Wildlife Fund (www.worldwildlife.org), and National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com/).

