

A WISE OLD OWL

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the root word on the right.

Many birds have special (1) _____ for humans but none is perhaps more respected than the owl. Owls, often seen as symbols of (2) _____, have a powerful hold on human imagination.

There are many species of owl and most of them are solitary, nocturnal birds of prey that are (3) _____ by their upright stance. They tend to blend in with the colorations and even the texture patterns of their (4) _____, which makes them hard to spot. They have a keen sense of (5) _____ and have special ears that can pick up sounds that are (6) _____ by the less sensitive human ear, such as tiny (7) _____ from small animals on the ground.

Many owls have special feathers on their wings which allow them to fly silently. They are commonly believed to be able to turn their heads a full 360 degrees; in fact, although they have fourteen neck vertebrae in (8) _____ with seven in humans, they're only able to rotate 270 degrees.

All these features add to our view of the owl as being (9) _____.

(1) SIGNIFY

(2) WISE

(3) CHARACTER

(4) SURROUND

(5) SEE

(6) DETECT

(7) VIBRATE

(8) COMPARE

(9) MYSTERY

