

Who Would Survive?

Snowy Owl



vs.



Great Horned Owl

BY MISS BELBER'S CLASS

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**Thank you so much for
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book!**

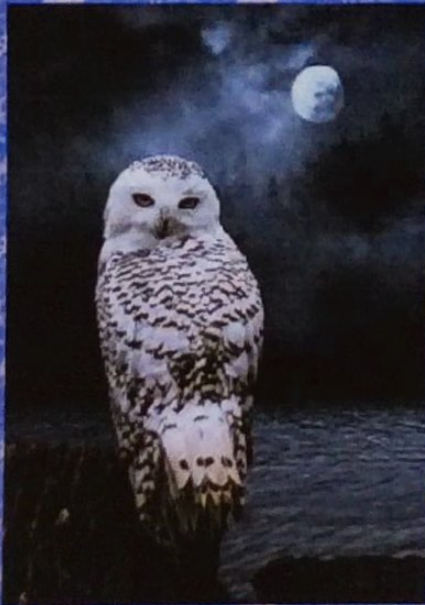


**Inspired by the
Who Would Win? books
by Jerry Pallotta**

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INTRODUCTION

What would happen if a snowy owl went into a great horned owl's habitat and the great horned owl went into a snowy owl's habitat? Who do you think would survive? Let's find out!

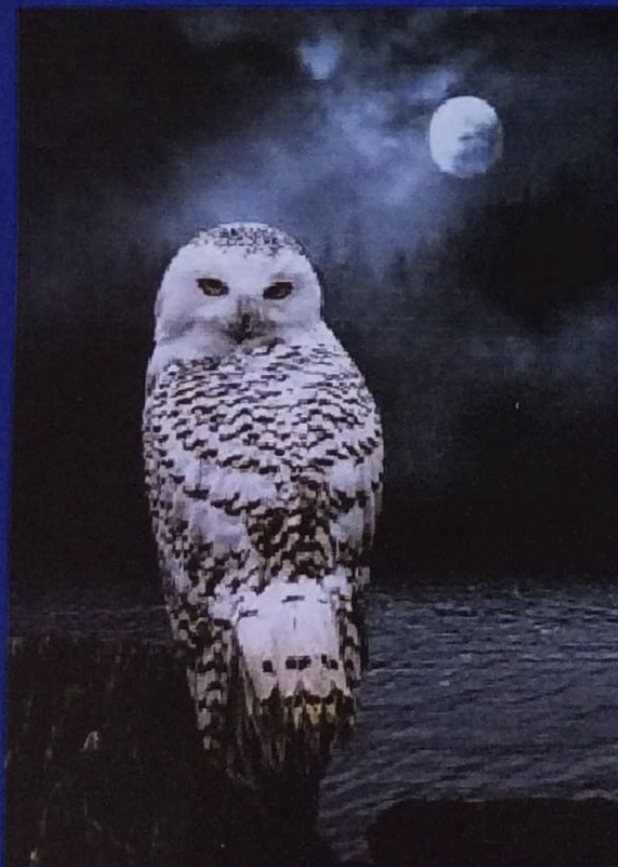


vs.



Snowy Owl Names

The snowy owl has many names like the great horned owl. It's scientific name is *bubo scandiacus*. One of its names is the great white owl. This is because of the color of the feathers. It is also called the arctic owl and the ghost owl. It is called the arctic owl because of its habitat. There are so many names, but it is still the same great animal!



Fun Fact

They are called the *hibou blanc* in French Canadian.

Great Horned Owl Names

The great horned owl has many names. The scientific name is *bubo virginianus*. Some people call the great horned owl the tiger owl because of their stripes. The great horned owl is also called the cat owl because of how they attack. Even with all there names they are still the same special animal.

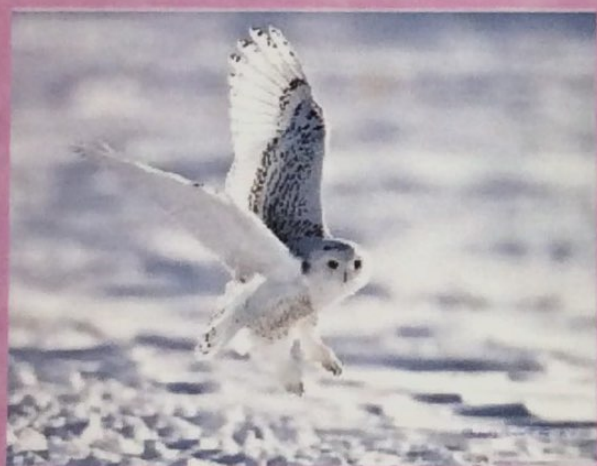


Fun Fact

The great horned owl is a **raptor**, which means *grab with force*.

Snowy Owl Location

The snowy owl lives in the Arctic Tundra. The Arctic Tundra is a treeless, frozen desert. The snowy owl migrates in the winter. It migrates to Southern Canada and the Northern United States because lemmings and other food are not around in the Arctic at that time. It leaves so it can get food for its family. The snowy owl is made for cold places.



Surprising Fact

Snowy owls have been spotted migrating as far as Florida!

Great Horned Owl Location

The great horned owl is a great owl. You can find the owl in north and south America. There is a place called the deciduous forests and you can find the owl there you can also find the owl great horned owl in deserts and back yards. The great horned owl is the most common owl in United States and Canada. There is a good chance you will see one if you are at any of these places.

Fun fact

A deciduous forest is a forest that has 4 seasons and the leaves on trees change color and fall off during the Fall and Winter.



Snowy Owl Size

Snowy owls are well known owls in the Arctic. Snowy owls are 28 inches tall. Snowy owls that are male are smaller than females. Their wingspan is about 54- 56 inches in length. They can weigh about 6 pounds. Snowy owls are one of the largest owls in North America.



Fun Fact

Under a snowy owl's feathers, it is the same small size as a robin's body.

Great Horned Owl Size

The size of the great horned owl can be 18-25 inches. The wingspan of a great horned owl is 35-55 inches. Females are bigger than males because the females are about 5 pounds and the males are about 4 pounds. Their bones are very strong and lightweight. The size of the great horned owl is important.



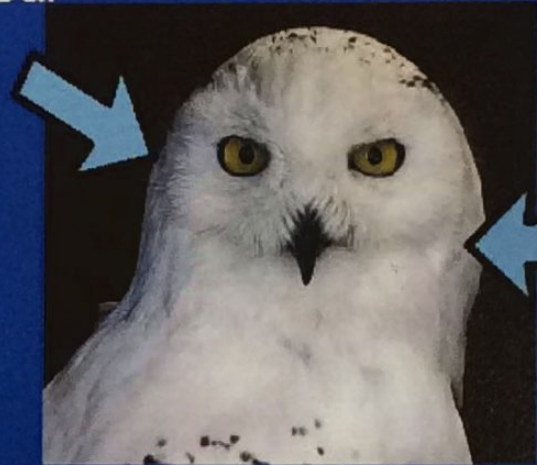
Fun Fact

The skull of great horned owls are shaped to hold their large eyes.

Snowy Owl Ears

The snowy owl's ears do a lot of things. One of the snowy owl's ears is higher than the other. Their ears are on the sides of their heads behind their eyes. Their sharp hearing allows them to hunt prey in total darkness. They can hear things humans can't. They can even hear things under the snow. Snowy owl ears are very strong.

ear



ear

FUN FACT

Facial discs around their eyes catch sound and send it to their ears.

Great Horned Owl Ears



Great horned owl ears are an important part of the body. One ear is higher than the other ear. They have an inner ear and an outer ear. The outer ear is hidden by feathers. Its high and low ears help it locate its prey. Their ears are so strong that they can hear under bushes to hear where their prey is. They also turn their heads to hear better. High pitched noises such as squeaking and rustling usually means food is near. Their ears are their most important hunting tool!

Did You Know?

Those things on the top of their heads that look like ears are not actually ears. They are feathers called ear tufts!

SNOWY OWL EYES

Snowy owls have good eyesight. Their eyes are yellow. They have three eyelids. One is a regular upper lid, another is a lower lid, and they have a thin eyelid that cleans and protects the surface of their eyes. Their eyes help them be **diurnal**. Snowy owls can see prey far away. Snowy owls have need their strong eyesight to help them survive in the Arctic.



Definition

Diurnal means *of the day*. This means snowy owls can see both day and night.

GREAT HORNED OWL EYES

Great horned owl's eyes have strong eyesight. They have night vision and they can see their prey from far away moving around in the night. Yellow eyes let light in when it's night time. Their eyes also don't turn in their sockets, so they have to turn their heads. Their heads can turn 270 degrees around so they can see their prey. Great horned owl eyes are one of the most important parts of their body.



Fun Fact

Great horned owl's eyes are as big as a human's eyes.

Snowy Owl Feathers

Snowy owls have white fluffy feathers with brown markings all over their body. Females have more markings than males on their feathers. The feathers on their wings are white with light brown markings. The feathers on their wings are fluffy to help them fly. Snowy owls have feathers on its whole body.

Fun Fact

Adult male snowy owls are nearly all white. They become whiter as they get older.



GREAT HORNED OWL FEATHERS

The great horned owls have fluffy feathers that are brown and grayish brown on their body. They have white feathers on their throats. The horns on its head are really soft feathers. The feathers on their wings are brown with dark markings. They have soft edges to help them fly. Most of the feathers on the great horned owls are loose, fluffy feathers.



Fluffy Fact

A mother will fluff up her feathers to look bigger to protect her owlets when a hawk is looking for a meal.

Snowy Owl Beaks

Snowy owls are amazing creatures. They have **bristles** on their beaks that help them sense prey and nearby objects. Snowy owls and owlets also use their beaks to help them climb up trees while branching. Most importantly, snowy owls use their beaks as a fork to chop up their prey. Snowy owls beaks help them do amazing things.



Definition

Bristles: tiny, short, stiff hairs on an animal

Great Horned Owl Beaks

The great horned owl's beak is one of its special features. They have a short black beak. Their beaks have a hooked and sharp point to help chop up food. They also use their beaks for preening their feathers. Great horned owls beaks help them do a lot of things.



Fun Fact

The great horned owl vocalizes with a low, rhythmic "hoo" that repeats up to 300 times per minute. They also make an alarm call by clapping their tongue.

Snowy Owl Talons

The snowy owls talons are sharp and strong. This helps to catch prey and not let the prey fall back to the ground. Did you know that the talons of a snowy owl are made of keratin? Our hair and nails are made of keratin too. Their talons are black on the outside. The snowy owl needs their sharp and strong talons to catch prey or they wont be able to catch food.



Foot Fact

Snowy owls have four talons on each foot.

Great Horned Owl Talons

Great horned owl talons are powerful body parts. They are thick and strong. They are almost 1 inch long. The great horned owl has sharp talons. This helps them to catch their prey. It also gives them an excellent grip that allows them to catch their prey. Great horned owls have sharp, thick, and strong talons to help them survive.



Did You Know?

When a great horned owl has its talons closed they need a force of 28 pounds to open them.

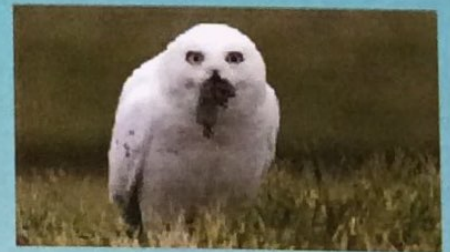
Snowy Owl Food

Snowy owls are raptors. The snowy owl hunts day and night. The male snowy owl can feed many babies. The snowy owl likes to eat lemmings and mice. An adult snowy owl can eat 1,600 lemmings in a year. The snowy owl doesn't chew their food. The first thing they do is make their food into bits. Then they swallow that food. That's how the snowy owl hunts and eats.



Definition

raptors: a special group of birds that eat other animals. Raptors are known as "birds of prey."



GREAT HORNED OWL FOOD

Great horned owls are very good hunters. They hunt to get their food. They hunt in the air by listening to the sounds of their prey. Then they swoop down and catch their prey. If their prey is little they will eat the prey whole and if the prey is too big the Great horned owl will eat it in chunks. Great horned owls are carnivores. They like to eat mice, rabbits, snakes and even skunks and other birds. They aren't afraid to go after their prey because of their strong hunting skills and hunger.



FUN FACT

Most owls kill their prey by biting them, but the great horned owls have strong grip to snap the necks of its prey.

Snowy Owl Adaptations

Snowy owls are easy to love because of all their adaptations. They have many physical adaptations. At their top speed they can go 50 miles per hour. They can also camouflage with their white feathers in the snow! They also have behavioral adaptations. They migrate to different places in the winter. They go south at the coldest part of the year! To catch prey, they need to restrict their energy level! Snowy owls adaptations are really important!



Fun Fact!

In addition to camouflage, their white feathers make it easier for air to enter and keep their body warm!



Great Horned Owl Adaptations

Great horned owls have lots of adaptations to help them survive. They have physical adaptations like their speed. They can go as fast as 20 to 40 miles per hour. They can also **camouflage** on a tree because of the color of their feathers. They are also strong. They can carry animals that are 8 to 9 pounds. The adaptations their bodies have help them survive.



Definition

Camouflage: a way of hiding something by covering or coloring it so that it looks like its surroundings.

Snowy Owl Nesting

Snowy owls nest to grow their family. Snowy owls can lay ten eggs at a time. They lay less when there's no food available. Snowy owls go mating from May to September. Once they find a mate, they have the their mate throughout their life. Mating and nesting is necessary for making a family.

Fun Fact

In the summer snowy owls lay their nests in the ground.



Great Horned Owl Nesting

Great horned owls mate and nest so they can keep the life cycle going. Mating is important for great horned owls. First, male owls fluff feathers to impress the females. They also spread their wings and do a courtship dance. After the owls mate, the females lay eggs in early February. They lay 2 or 3 eggs and each egg is 2 or 3 days apart. The winter is a busy time for great horned owls!



Nesting Fact

When the great horned owls are ready to lay their eggs, they take over the nest of other birds. They do not make their own nests!





Snowy Owl

vs.



Great Horned Owl

Location

size

Ears

Eyes

Feathers

Beaks

Talons

Food

Adaptations

Nesting

What would happen if the great horned owl and the snowy owl switched habitats? Who would survive?



Read Them All!

Cottontail Rabbit vs. Arctic Hare

Arctic Fox vs. Red Fox