BARN OWLS can turn their head 270 degrees in both directions.

Owls can turn their heads further than humans because they have two times the neck vertebrae.

Art by Sketchplanations
It’s all about the eyes.

Owls need to be able to turn their heads so far because they can’t move their eyes in their sockets. They have a bone (sclerotic ring) that stops the eye from moving.

Why do you think looking around is so important?
So owls can spot predators before it’s too late!

See like an owl with owl-noculars!

Owls can see straight ahead for long distances but they can’t see to the side without turning their heads. Make a pair of these “owl-noculars” to experience sight like an owl!

1: Make a mask. Cut out eyeholes.

2: Tape paper towel tubes over eyeholes.

3: Look through the tubes.

Explore an owl’s eyesight!

Search online for “National Geographic Bird’s Eye View” to see learn more about how an owl’s vision works.