

## Decodable Texts: Long Vowel Teams: ow (cow)

"This nonfiction story focuses on the 'ow' sound as in 'cow.' Watch for words like 'growl,' 'crowd,' and 'now' as you learn how animals stay safe!"



### How Animals Use Their Growl

Some animals growl to show power and protect their space.

A bear may growl when it feels danger is near.

Dogs growl to warn others not to come too close.

Lions growl loud enough for a whole crowd to hear!

When animals growl, they say, "Stay back now!"

It is their way to stay safe without a fight.

After reading the story, have your child point to and slowly sound out each practice word.

growl

crowd

now

power

how



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## How Animals Use Their Growl

1. Why do animals growl?

- A. To invite friends
- B. To stay safe and show power
- C. To look for food
- D. To take a nap

2. Which animal growls loud enough for a whole crowd to hear?

- A. A cat
- B. A bear
- C. A lion
- D. A bird

3. Fill in the blank:

When animals growl, they say, "Stay back \_\_\_\_\_!"

4. Why do animals growl instead of fighting right away?

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5. What should people do if they hear an animal growl?

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# Coaching Guide

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**Target Skill:** *ow as in "cow" (/ow/ sound)*

**Genre:** *Nonfiction – Life Science / Animal Behavior*

**High-Frequency Words:** *their, stay, when, not, back*

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## Before Reading

1. This story includes “ow” words like *growl, crowd, power, now, how, and show*.
  2. Have you ever heard a dog or other animal growl?
  3. Why do you think animals give warnings before they act?
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## During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support: Sounding Out Support:** Practice stretching the /ow/ sound in words like *growl* and *crowd*. Help children feel how the sound matches the strong feeling behind a growl!
  2. Watch for target skill words that explain why and how animals growl.
  3. Which animals growl to protect their space?
  4. Read the final line with a clear and serious tone, like giving good advice.
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## After Reading

1. Retell why animals growl and how it helps them stay safe.
  2. Why is it important for people to stay away when they hear a growl?
  3. What would you do if you saw a dog or wild animal growl?
  4. Skill Check: Highlight six “ow” words in the passage.
  5. **Fluency Tip:** Read it again using a deep, powerful voice—just like a warning growl!
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## Activity Idea

Draw a bear and a lion showing their powerful growls. Label parts using “ow” words like *growl, crowd, now, power, show, or how*. Write one sentence about how animals use their growls to stay safe.

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## Coaching Tip

Nonfiction about animals connects reading to safety lessons—help students understand that reading teaches both facts and how to make smart choices!

