

OWL PELLETS

LESSON PLAN



WOLF RIDGESM
ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER

OWL PELLETS



CLASS DESCRIPTION: An Animal Ecology Class

Students will learn about the adaptations of barn owls and their role in the food web. By dissecting sterilized owl pellets, they find and rebuild a skeleton of a small mammal, which can be identified, glued onto a card, and taken home.

Total time: 1.5 hours

Audience: 4-20 students, 4th grade through adult

Activity level: easy

Travel: none

Total uphill travel: none

OBJECTIVE:

To...

CONCEPTS:

- A food web is more stable than a food chain.
- There is life found in every possible niche (habitat and role) on earth.
- Predator/prey relationships are an example of coexistence in a balanced ecosystem.
- All living things acquire physical and behavioral adaptations to be successful in their environment.

OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of Owl Pellets class students will be able to:

1. Identify the role and adaptations of owls in the ecosystem.
2. Clarify the concept of a food web.
3. Dissect an owl pellet.
4. Identify small mammal skulls and bones using a bone identification chart.



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Our mission is to develop a citizenry that has the knowledge, skills, motivation and commitment to act together for a quality environment.

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Equipment

- owl pellets
- Owl Pellet Mystery booklet
- 1/2 sheets of paper and index cards
- forceps and dissecting needles
- glue
- paper and pencils
- sample skeleton
- owl pellet posters
- Barn Owl wing
- "Ridge" notes for instructors

Appendices

- Glossary
- Additional Information
- Optional Activities
- References
- Sources

Set-up (10 min.)

- Classroom/class prep description
- Safety Management

I. Introduction (20 min.)

- Greeting/Grabber
- Class Overview
- Assess Learner Level

II. Barn Owls (5 min.)

III. Owl Pellets (75 min.)

- A. Dissecting a Pellet
- B. Building a Skeleton
- C. Story Writing

V. Conclusion (5 min.)

Clean-up (10 min.)