



Owl Pellet Dissections

Plus Extension Activities

3 - 12





Owl Pellets 3 -5 Workshop plus Extension

In our extended program students explore real natural specimens by dissecting owl pellets. Students learn about specimen preservation, explore museum displays, and how to interpret information.

Activity includes:

1. **Owl Pellet Dissection:** Students dissect an owl pellet and explore their diet. Students will observe different animals that consist of an owl's diet and make observations regarding what they find.
2. **Study of Taxonomy:** Students will learn about taxonomy and the identification of animal bones.
3. **Museum Display Design:** Students will design their own museum display for the bones they find from owl pellets. Students will learn about and practice real specimen preservation.

Supporting Next Generation Science Standards:

3-LS1-1 From molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

Develop models to describe that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles but all have in common birth, growth, reproduction, and death.

3-LS3-2 Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits

Use evidence to support the explanation that traits can be influenced by the environment.

4-LS1-1 From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.

5-LS2-1 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics

Develop a model to describe the movement of matter among plants, animals, decomposers, and the environment.



Owl Pellets 6 - 8 Workshop plus Extension

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Supporting NGSS Standards:

MS-LS1-4 From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

Use argument based on empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to support an explanation for how characteristic animal behaviors and specialized plant structures affect the probability of successful reproduction of animals and plants respectively.

MS-LS2-1 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics

Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence for the effects of resource availability on organisms and populations of organisms in an ecosystem.

MS-LS2-3 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics

Develop a model to describe the cycling of matter and flow of energy among living and nonliving parts of an ecosystem.

MS-LS2-5 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics

Evaluate competing design solutions for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services.*



Owl Pellets 9 - 12 Workshop plus Extension

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1. **Owl Pellet Dissection:** Students dissect an owl pellet and explore their diet. Students will observe different animals that consist of an owl's diet and make observations regarding what they find.
2. **Study of Taxonomy:** Students will learn about taxonomy and the identification of animal bones.
3. **Museum Display Design:** Students will design their own museum display for the bones they find from owl pellets. Students will learn about and practice real specimen preservation.
4. **Circuitry Explorations:** Students will conduct circuitry investigations and add lights to their mini museum.

Supporting NGSS Standards:

HS-LS1-2 From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

Develop and use a model to illustrate the hierarchical organization of interacting systems that provide specific functions within multicellular organisms.

HS-LS2-3 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics

Construct and revise an explanation based on evidence for the cycling of matter and flow of energy in aerobic and anaerobic conditions.

HS-PS3-3 Energy

Design, build, and refine a device that works within given constraints to convert one form of energy into another form of energy.*