

Activity Name
Owl Pellet Dissection

suggested age group: 9-10

type of activity:

art

world cultures

reading/writing

science

mathematics

practical life

P.E. & health

social skills

play

materials needed:

Owl Pellet Dissection Lab pages, pp.3 & 5
(one set per child)

Owl Pellet Dissection Lab pages, pp.7 & 8
(one set per group)

Owl Pellet Bone Sorting Chart / Owl Pellet Skeleton Diagrams
(in page protectors, one set per group)

large barn owl pellets, one per group

gloves

toothpicks

paper towels

setting the stage / picture book:

read The Barn Owls by Tony Johnston

I also like Barn Owl (Science I Can Read) by Phyllis Flower;
it is a little harder to find but it has more information

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activity plan:

pass out paper towels, gloves, toothpicks, and a large owl pellet to each group

have children unwrap the pellet and complete page 3

- examine and measure the exterior
- what color is it? what does it feel like?
- describe and draw what you see

have children carefully break apart the pellet and use the toothpicks to separate the bones from the fur

have children sort the bones in separate group types using the Owl Pellet Bone Sorting Chart and complete page 5

if desired, children can use the Owl Pellet Skeleton Diagrams to try to reconstruct a skeleton using the bones they have found

have children work in small groups to complete pages 7 & 8, then discuss as a class (see Answer Key)

follow up / notes:

large barn owl pellets are available at Nature Watch

Owl Pellet Dissection Lab pages (print page 8 at 23%)

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/62224de934220d1ad2b759d8/t/63e045257e7aa90b1f53328d/1675642160349/ORC+Owl+Pellet+Dissection+Lab+.pdf>