



SfS Away from the Classroom!

LS08: Owl Pellets (Recommended for Grades 3-5)

Please use the following resources to learn about owl pellets!

Watch this Video: <https://youtu.be/V9azuEJnIQs>

Answer these questions:

- What is an owl pellet?
- What kinds of things are found in an owl pellet?
- What can a scientist learn from an owl's pellet?

Activities:

1. You can dissect a simulated owl pellet online at this link: <http://kidwings.com/virtual-pellet/>
Explore what the owl ate and identify the different bones inside!
2. Watch this video comparing the flight of a pigeon, a falcon, and an owl: https://youtu.be/d_FEaFgJyfA
Owls are stealth predators, and their flight is nearly silent. See if you can move silently like an owl!

You will need:

• A lab partner	• A measuring tape
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1. Have a lab partner stand at a distance (or in another room) and close their eyes. They are a “mouse”!
2. You will be the “owl”. Start moving towards your partner as silently as you can... Your goal is to tap them on the shoulder without them hearing you at all! If they hear you before you reach them, freeze! Measure how close you were able to get before they heard you.
3. Take turns with your lab partner, with one person being the “mouse” (listening closely with eyes shut) and the other person being the “owl” (trying to get as close as possible without being heard).
4. How did you have to move to be silent? How close were you able to get?

Make observations & use Claims, Evidence, and Reasoning!

1. **Claim:** You can learn about an owl's diet from its pellet.
 - **Evidence:**
 - **Reasoning:**
2. **Claim:** Owls rely on stealth (rather than speed) to catch their prey.
 - **Evidence:**
 - **Reasoning:**

