



# Rio Grande Educational Collaborative

## Before and After School Program Lesson Plan

**TITLE OF LESSON:** Owl Pellets

**DATE:**

**SITE NAME:**

**CLASS SIZE:**

**NAME(S) OF INSTRUCTOR:**

**DURATION OF LESSON:**

**CREDIT (website used/name of author):** Kevin Saavedra, [www.nature-watch.com](http://www.nature-watch.com) (for bone diagram)

**COMMON CORE STANDARDS:** SL.K.3, SL.3.1.D, SL.5.1.C

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

**Students will understand the following:**

- How to create observations about an object they are actively dissecting

### ACTIVITY:

#### Instructional Sequence:

(Step by step instructions, should another instructor pick up and teach the lesson successfully)

1. Before the lesson, explain what owl pellets are—essentially the remains of animals that an owl ate that couldn't be digested and that the owl later regurgitated.
2. Ask each student to put on gloves. The pellets should be sanitized, but this will help them cope with the idea of handling owl vomit (don't want it getting under their nails).
3. Hand each student a pellet and a diagram for their bones (Plenty can be found online, but do some research prior to figure out what the owls are fed on. Usually, it's mice and rats, but bird bones are very different from rodent bones, so make sure).
4. Spend time dissecting the pellet. They can break it in half to see that there are, in fact, bones inside, but make sure that you emphasize the importance of taking their time and handling the bones gently so that they don't break.
5. Place bones on the diagram OR put them aside in a cup and save for later.
6. When all bones have been removed, or before the period ends, put the bones in a cup with bleach (undiluted) in a well-ventilated area and let them sit overnight. The bleach should dissolve most of the fur, but, again, make sure students try to get as much off the bones as possible.

### MATERIALS:

#### The following materials or equipment needed for this lesson:

(Include special equipment request)

- Owl Pellets
- Toothpicks
- Tweezers
- Plastic Cups
- Bleach
- Gloves
- Owl Pellet Bone diagram (see below)

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SITE SUPERVISOR'S SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTOR'S REFLECTION:**

**Reflection on the lesson given:**

1. How many students participated in the lesson given? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name(s) of instructors participated. \_\_\_\_\_
3. How long did your lesson take? (Amount of time) \_\_\_\_\_
4. How did the students feel about the lesson? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Did the students like the lesson? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What part of the lesson did the students like? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What part of the lesson did the students not like? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Were the students interested in the topic of the lesson? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Was the content of the lesson difficult for the students? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What could you have changed to make the lesson interesting? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Did you have any trouble getting your lesson together? (Idea & Materials) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. How do you rate your lesson? (1-10) Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**SITE SUPERVISOR'S REFLECTION:**

**Reflection on the instructor's lesson:**

1. How many students participated in lesson? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many instructors participated in lesson? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Did the students enjoy the lesson? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What part did the students enjoy? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What part did the students NOT enjoy? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What could have been changed to make the lesson interesting? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Was the content of this lesson difficult for students to understand? Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What part of STEAM or literacy was used? (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics or Literacy)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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## Owl Pellet Bone Sorting Chart

Use this chart to identify the different types of bones that you discover in your owl pellets.

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	RODENT	MOLE	SHREW	BIRD
Skull				
Jaw				
Shoulder Blade				
Front Leg				
Hip				
Back Leg				
Rib				
Vertebrae				
Misc. Items	Caterpillar larvae & caterpillar cocoons		Caterpillar droppings	



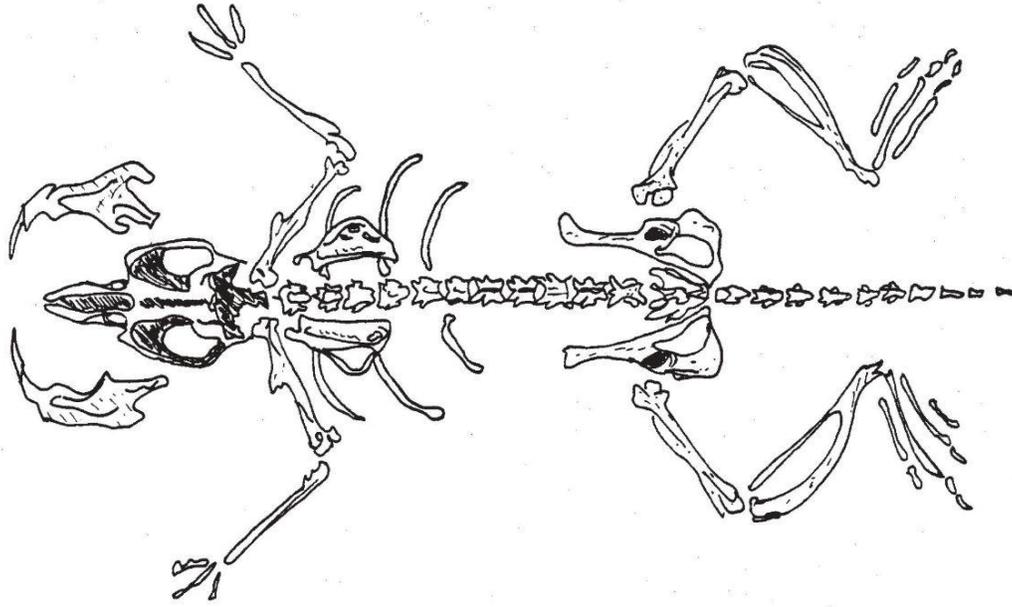
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## Owl Pellet Skeleton Diagrams

Use these diagrams to aid in reassembling the bones that you discover in your owl pellets.

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**TOP VIEW**



**SIDE VIEW**

