

Owl Pellet Dissection Lab: Nature Lab

Topics covered: Students are introduced to the biology and life history of owls while learning how to use dissecting instruments in the laboratory. Students dissect owl pellets in the lab and use data to determine the diet and habitat use of owls.

Ages: 4th – 8th

Purchase Details: \$8 per student

Programs can be reserved by phone: 901-636-2221
Tuesday - Friday, sessions by appointment

Objectives:

1. Learn about owl biology and anatomy.
2. Find the discarded animal products inside an owl pellet.
3. Use data sheets to compare your findings and figure out what owls eat.

Vocabulary:

talons
wing span
camouflage
ornithologist
diurnal
predator
plumage
mantling
carnivore
crepuscular
owlet
regurgitate
raptor

Fun Facts:

- Owls have asymmetrical ears at different heights on the sides of their head so they can more accurately pinpoint the location of sounds.
- A group of frogs is called a parliament.
- Owls cannot move their eyes, but they can turn their heads 270 degrees.
- Barn owls swallow their prey whole!

Web Resources:

Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency – www.tn.gov/twra.html

Tennessee Wildlife Federation – www.tnwf.org

Exhibit Information at Lichterman Nature Center – www.memphismuseums.org/lichterman-nature-center/

The Audubon Society – www.audubon.org/

Where: Lichterman Nature Center Labs

When: Year-round, Tuesday – Friday, sessions by appointment

- **Standards:**
 - **(Grade Level)** 4 - 8
- **Tennessee: (Life Science)**
 - LS (1, 2, 4), ETS2
- **Mississippi: (Life Science)**
 - L (1-4), E10
- **Arkansas**
 - LS 1, 2, 3, 4