



Owl Pellet Program Pre Classroom Visit

Brief Description

Owls are important species to the ecosystem and the animal food chain. In this activity students will learn important facts about owls by dissecting owl pellets and studying the basic nature of the owls that live at Russell Cave National Monument. The students will handle objects to give them a better understanding about an owl's anatomy and its natural habitat. With this program children can unlock some of the mysteries of our feathered friends.

Grade Levels: Designed for 5th -10th grade

Time elapse: 45-60 minutes

Materials:

- Blackboard
- Television & DVD Player
- Pencils

Vocabulary: Rod Cell, Operculum, Habitat, Pellet, Regurgitate, Nocturnal.

Outcomes:

1. Students will learn the owls at Russell Cave National monument.
2. Students will learn the adaptations of an owl.
3. Students will learn the prey of the owls at Russell Cave.
4. Students will come away with a better understanding of how important owl pellets are to science.

Alabama Curriculum: Biology, Environmental Sciences, Ecology



The Barred Owl

From the trees to the grassy fields, the Barred Owl is not a stranger to Russell Cave's habitat. They are 16-24 inches in length and have a wingspan of 34-38 inches. Barred Owls have a diet of small animals like mice, voles, lizards, frogs and even fish. The Barred Owl can live in up to 14 years in the wild.



Classroom Procedures

1. Teachers should always call within two weeks before a classroom visit.
2. If possible teachers should teach the students the vocabulary on the pre classroom visit page. This will help the students have a better understanding of the program.
3. If any students think they will be allergic to the owl pellets they should not participate in this program.
4. The class room limit should be 34 students. This will make it easier to have two students in a group together.
5. Teachers should make sure they have the materials from the pre classroom visit page.



The Great Horned Owl

Perched among the pine trees, the Great Horned Owl can be found hunting for a meal. The Great Horned Owl gets its name from its feathered tufts that look like horns. This Owl is found in Russell Cave's woodland environment.

Additional Resources

Howard, Richard, and Alick Moore. "The Barred Owl." 1991. Web. 27 Aug. 2009.

"Great Horned Owl." 19 July 2009. Web. 27 Aug. 2009.