



## ***Pre-Visit/Post-Visit Guide***

## ***Lesson Name: Owl Pellet Dissection Lab***

### **Summary of Lesson:**

Dissecting an owl pellet reveals the organisms in the owl's food web, as well as illustrating their niche in ecosystems. Unravel the secrets of the woods at night by dissecting the fuzzy clue of an owl pellet. Each student will keep their own dissected pellet for further investigation.

### **South Carolina Science Standards: 5.L.4B**

### **Pre-Visit Resources**

- **Teacher/Chaperone Expectations:** Please help us by letting us know of any special accommodations for your children prior to the lesson. Your assistance with classroom management and distribution of materials will also be greatly appreciated.
- **Instruction for Teachers:**
  - Please report to the Harrison Hall of Science for this lesson. Students will have time to wash their hands at the end of the lesson.
- **Key Vocabulary:** energy flow, predator, prey, food chain, food web
- **Key Questions Addressed in Lesson:** What type of animal prey do you hypothesize make up your owl pellet? What is the niche of an owl? What are some animal populations that are prey items of an owl? How do plants and the non-living environment affect the population of owls?
- **Content Preview Video:**
  - "Owl Food Web" (2:28) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uePdtzaEuak>

### **Post-Visit Resources**

- **Writing Prompt:** Create an ABC, limeric, or narrative illustrated poem describing an owl's habitat, adaptations, and energy roles in a healthy forest ecosystem.
- **Possible Lesson Link:**
  - Forest Food Chain Game <https://brainpowerboy.com/best-books-for-boys-forest-food-chain-books-and-game/>
- **Video Link:**
  - "Learning About Food Chains" (6:35) [https://youtu.be/CDO\\_B1Bbjl8](https://youtu.be/CDO_B1Bbjl8)
  - "Energy from food-owls" (3:39) <https://youtu.be/C7Jv2huzgNI>
- **Career Connections:**
  - "Federal Wildlife Officer-Career Spotlight" (3:23) <https://youtu.be/Uok3GhQ8N90>
  - "Wildlife Rehabilitators" (2:50) <https://youtu.be/ouKYwrkxykY>