

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teacher Sheet: Owl Pellet Dissections ✓Fledglings

Fill out the tables with information collected from your Barn Owl pellet dissection.

1. Finish the sentence:

Because I know that Barn Owls eat mainly small mammals, I think that my pellet will contain more voles than any other prey.

2. Write down three observations about your pellet before dissection. Consider size, shape, color, texture, weight.

1. *grayish brown color*

2. *bones are visible*

3. *oval shape and feels light*

3. Draw a quick sketch of your pellet before you pull it apart.

4. Using the Identification Keys, tally the different types of bones you found in your pellet.

Bone Type	Tally the number of pieces
Skulls	
Ribs	
Jaws	
Pelvis	
Scapula	
Humerus	
Vertebrae	
Other	

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4. Using the Skull Identification Key identify the skulls in your pellet. Place a tally mark next to the animal skulls you find.

Animal	Tally
Mouse	
Vole	
Rat	
Shrew	
Mole	
Bird	

5. Using the Bone Identification Keys, construction paper, and glue rebuild the animal skeleton(s) and label the bones.
6. Did you find a complete skeleton(s)? If no, why do you think that you may not have found a complete skeleton.

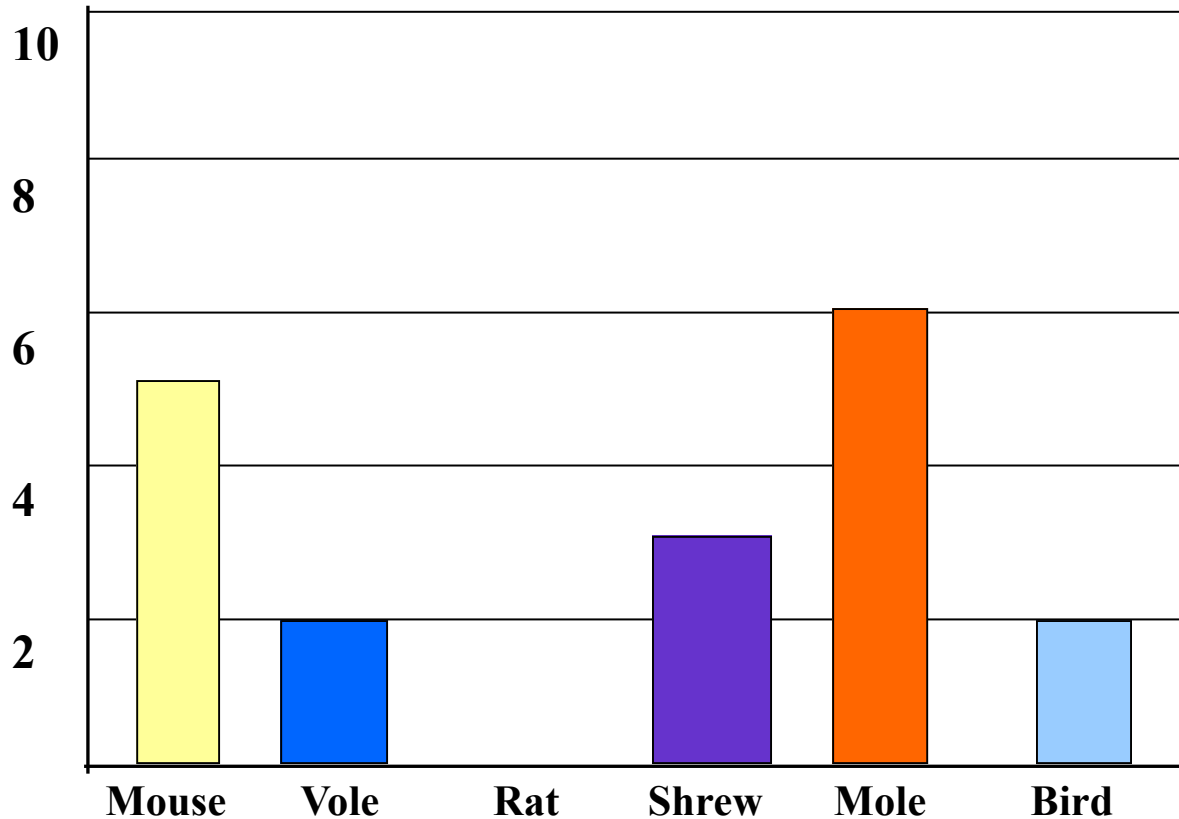
I did not find a complete skeleton. It is possible that we missed some of the smaller bones and there were some bones that we could not identify.

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8. Using your results from Question 4, share your data with the class and graph the class findings: (Hint: The number of skulls is equal to the number of animals your owl ate.)



9. Did you find that your statement from Question 1 was correct?

No, we found one vole skull and one mouse skull. Our owl must have eaten two different rodents that night.

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Teacher Sheet: Owls at Petroglyph Point

✓Fledglings

On your class field trip to Petroglyph Point use your investigation and observation skills to look for Barn Owls and other birds using Petroglyph Point as a breeding place.

- 1. Scan the west face of Petroglyph Point for Barn Owls and other nesting birds. Use clues like white wash areas and watching birds coming and going from the rock to find nests. In the space below draw Petroglyph Point where you see birds using it as a nesting habitat.**

- 2. Walk around the base of Petroglyph Point what evidence of Barn Owls and other raptors using Petroglyph Point as a roost and nesting place?**

The ground is covered in pellets and small bones. Some areas of the rock have large areas of white wash which must be from birds using the same roosts year after year. Petroglyph Point seems to be an ideal habitat for raptors because it overlooks several fields. While we were on the field trip we saw a male American Kestrel perch on a rock and we saw a Barn Owl in its roost!