An Owl’s Dinner

Procedure

1. **Predict**  In this activity, you will study the contents of an owl pellet. An owl pellet is a ball of material that an owl coughs up after it has digested a meal. It contains material that the owl’s stomach could not digest. Predict what you think an owl pellet contains. Record your prediction on the lines below.

2. **Observe** Use forceps and a large wooden skewer to carefully pull the pellet apart. Use the hand lens to look at the materials in the pellet. Look for fur, feathers, and bones. Then try to separate the materials into groups based on the species of animals they came from.

3. **Measure** Use the metric ruler to measure the lengths of the skulls. Also observe other features of the skulls, such as the number of teeth.

4. **Record Data** Record the skull lengths and other observations on the lines below.
5. **Classify** Use the drawings in your book to identify as many of the skulls as possible. Record your findings on the lines below. Once you have completed the activity, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water.


**Conclusion**

Write the answers to the questions below.

1. **Infer** What did the owl eat? Explain how you inferred the answer.

2. **Draw Conclusions** What do you know about an owl’s role in its ecosystem?

**Investigate More!**

**Design an Experiment** Look at the bones other than skulls and jaws. Sort them into different types based on shape and size. Compare the bones and describe their purposes.