

Look Whooooo's
Learning About Owls



Birds of the Night

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I Project Overview

As part of our Eisenhower Project for the 2008-2009 school year, the first grade classes will embark on a journey into the amazing world of nocturnal animals, focusing on the owl. Through literature, science, hands on activities and technology, the children will learn about these amazing night birds; their characteristics, habitat, behavior and eating habits. The students will also create a web page to display all the information learned throughout the unit. A trip to the Tenafly Nature Center will enhance the classroom activities and provide a hands on experience that the children will truly enjoy.

II Objectives

Content Objectives

- Students will learn about a variety of owls and how they live in the forest
- Students will examine owl pellets to determine what small animals were eaten by the owl.
- Students will draw and label a diagram of an owl.
- Students will learn owl facts using finger plays and songs.
- Students will identify the life cycle of an owl by creating a sequential accordion booklet with sentences and illustrations.
- Students will view specific species of owls in their natural habitat at the Tenafly Nature Center.
- Students will demonstrate their knowledge of owls by creating various crafts and art activities.

Technology Objectives

- Students will identify the keys on a computer keyboard.
- Students will type one or two sentences using correct punctuation.
- Students will log on to district computers using their I.D. and password.
- Students will be able to open specific programs [Internet Explorer/ Microsoft Word] by double-clicking the mouse.

III New Jersey Core Content Curriculum Standards

Language Arts and Literacy

3.1 3.2 3.3 3.4 3.5

Science

5.4 5.5 5.8 5.10

Technology

8.1 8.2

IV Rubrics

CONTENT LESSON RUBRIC

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You can label the parts of an Owl's body.	You know most of the parts of an Owl's body.	You are still working on the Owl's anatomy.
You can write and illustrate an Owl fact.	You are still working on your sentence and illustration.	Your owl sentences are not complete.
You can follow directions to complete an Owl puppet.	You are still working on your Owl puppet.	Your Owl puppet is not complete.
You can observe, identify and place the contents of an owl pellet onto a diagram.	You are still working on your Owl pellet diagram.	Your Owl pellet diagram is not complete.

TECHNOLOGY LESSON RUBRIC

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You know how to use the mouse and the keyboard without help.	You can use the mouse and the keyboard with some help.	You need a friend to help you use the mouse and the keyboard.
You know how to log on to the computer and open Microsoft Word .	You can log onto the computer but cannot open Microsoft Word.	You need a friend to help you log onto the computer and open Microsoft Word.
You know how to open Internet Explorer and go to Google.	You know how to open Internet Explorer, but need help finding Google.	You need a friend to open Internet Explorer and help you to find Google.

V Lesson Plans

As core portions of our unit, we used five lessons plans for our study of Owls. Three of our lessons dealt with the content areas of Language Arts and Science. The remaining two are Technology related.

Lesson One: Introduction to Owls

Objective

Children will be introduced to a diagram depicting an Owl with labeled body parts

Materials

Owl poster

Picture book

Internet- Google/ Yahoo!igans

Labeling worksheet

Procedure

Children will use search engines to locate pictures of various types of owls and discuss similarities and differences.

Teacher will display diagram of an owl to discuss body parts and its function.

Assessment

Children will complete an owl diagram, labeling each body part.

Children will use Microsoft Word to write a sentence describing a specific body part .

Children will follow steps for printing and illustrate each sentence.

Lesson Two: Designing an Owl Habitat

Objective- Children will be introduced to various owl habitats. Children will design a triorama / mural illustrating an owl's habitat.

Materials-

Owl Picture books

United Streaming Video

Paper bags

Construction Paper

Google Images [owl pictures]

Procedure

Teacher will display picture books of owls

Teacher will elicit children's responses and chart a list of possible owl homes.

Children will view a United Streaming video on owl habitats.

Assessment

Working along with a partner, children will create an owl mural or an owl triorama, demonstrating their knowledge of a specific owl habitat.

Lesson Three

Objective

Children will observe and dissect owl pellets

Materials

Owl pellets

Plastic tweezers

Bone chart

Glue

Procedure

Groups of two will dissect one pellet and match the bones obtained from the pellet to the bone chart.

Assessment

When bone chart is complete and dry, children will compare and contrast different bones with their classmates.

Lesson Four: Microsoft Office

Objective

Students will be able to use their individual user name and password to log onto Microsoft Office.

Procedure

Students will demonstrate their ability to log on the computer using their password. After gaining access to Microsoft Office and then Microsoft Word, the students will type owl facts, print them, and then illustrate each fact.

Lesson Five: Search Engines

Objective

Children will log on, using their user name and password, to gain access to Internet Explorer.

Procedure

Students will demonstrate the ability to log onto the computer using their password. After gaining access, children will log onto www.google.com They will open this search engine to find additional pictures and information about owls.

Assessment

Students will independently log on and open Internet Explorer. They will demonstrate how to type in www.google.com and look for Owl information and pictures. The teacher will assess and check as each student displays their results page.

Bibliography

Children's Books

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Project Evaluation

By

Mary Ann Lentini

As a second year Eisenhower participant, integrating technology education into the Science curriculum was much easier. This year's theme was "Owls". Through Language Arts, Science, Math, and Technology, the children explored a variety of activities focusing on these amazing nocturnal birds. As part of the Language Arts curriculum, the students composed stories using the facts learned about owls, and then used Microsoft Word to type, print, and then illustrate each story. Solving addition and subtraction word problems with owls as the main characters was one of the many math activities that the students truly enjoyed. The highlight of our owl unit was dissecting owl pellets. The children worked in groups of two to examine the skeleton of the small animal that the owl ingested and then gluing it onto the chart depicting the same animals. Finally, a field trip to the Tenafly Nature Center allowed the boys and girls an opportunity to go on a one mile nature walk and meet a live owl in its surrounding habitat.

Once again, I feel that our study of owls was a huge success. The children thoroughly enjoyed all the crafts and activities, as well as integrating technology into their core curriculum subjects. In this world of fast paced technology, it is extremely important that students of all ages immerse themselves into the wonderful world of computers.

Project Evaluation

By

Christine Buckman

This year for the Eisenhower Grant my topic was "Owls" This topic was cross curriculum as it involved Math, Science, Language Arts and Technology We had a large variety of activities such as owl fact booklets, owl puppets, owl murals depicting them in their different habitats. One of the highlights was our dissection of owl pellets to determine what the owl ate. Children were able to log on the computers, go to Microsoft word , type an owl fact and print it out and then illustrate it.

Students will independently log on to the computer, and open to Microsoft Office. Owl facts typed by each child will be illustrated . The classroom teacher will check each sentence before it is printed. Each owl fact will be illustrated and signed by the student.

As a culminating activity, we will be going on a field trip to see live owls at the Tenafly Nature Center. We will attend an owl workshop and learn more about owls.