

# OWL PELLETS!

## ESSENTIAL QUESTION: WHAT DID THE OWL EAT?

**Part One: Outside the Owl Pellet:** Before you dissect your pellet, examine the outside of the pellet for clues to where it was gathered. Pellets are collected from a variety of places around the country. Using the chart below to figure out where your pellet was most likely produced.

What you might find: Where owl gaged the pellet:

Milo Seeds → Open sheds

Grain → Grain elevator

Dirt → Cut banks and under trees

Hay or Straw → Barns and Hay Sheds

Feathers → Man-made nesting boxes

Pine needles → Under Evergreen trees

**Items Stuck on Pellet:**

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**Where do you think your pellet was gathered?**

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**Part Two: Inside the Owl Pellet:** After you dissected your pellet, determine what species was eaten by your owl using the keys provided. Fill out the table below with your data and the classroom data.

**Individual Data:**

1) Number of skulls (or pairs of jaw bones) found in your owl pellet: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Species and number of prey animals found in your owl pellet: \_\_\_\_\_

Species	Number of Individuals	Observations

**Class Data:**

1) Number of pellets examined: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Total number of species found in the class pellets: \_\_\_\_\_

Species	Number of Individuals	Observations

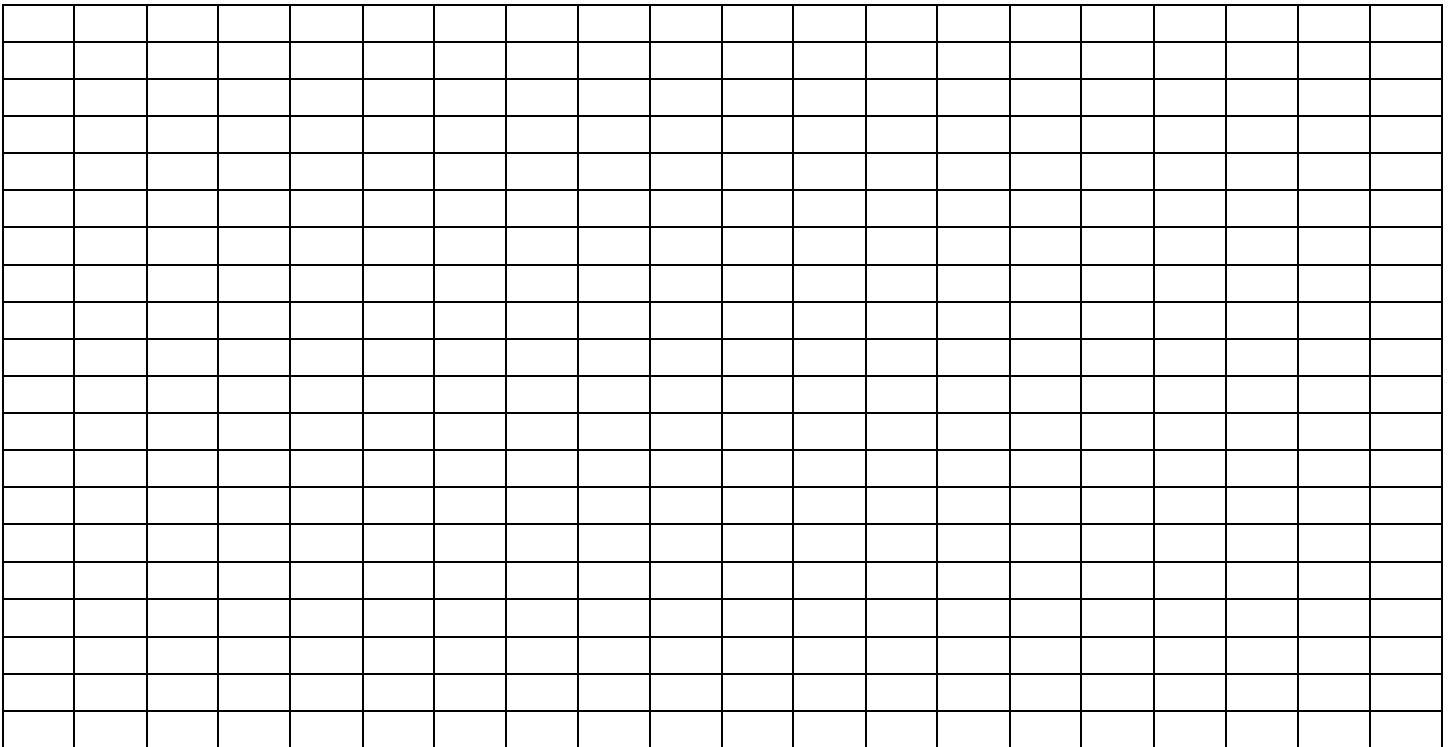
### Data Analysis: Calculations

Calculate the average number of animals found in our class pellets. Remember to include units in your calculation.

### Part Three: Graph: Frequency Table of Results

Graph the prey results of the class. Create a bar graph showing the frequency of species. Make sure to label axes.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_



**Part Four: Constructing a Food Web.** Using the information from your pellet and the class data, construct a food web. Include the barn owl, the prey of the barn owl, and the producers of the system. Please label all trophic levels involved.

A large rounded rectangular box for drawing a food web, with a light blue background and a dark blue border.