



## Comparative Anatomy Activity for Kids

### Owl Pellet Dissection DIY

 Duration: **45-60 min**    Difficulty: **Medium**    Cost: **\$10**

Learn how to search for bones in an owl pellet and compare your skeleton to that of a rodent.

### Material List

- 1 Pair of Tweezers
- 1 Popsicle Stick
- 1 White Piece of Paper
- 1 Sterilized Owl Pellet, you can buy online for under \$10
- 1 Bone Identification Chart, usually comes with the owl pellet

### Instructions

- 1 Open your sterilized owl pellet on top of the white piece of paper.
- 2 Use the Popsicle stick to gently break apart the pellet.
- 3 Use the tweezers to pick up and examine the bones that are in the broken-up pellet.
- 4 Lay the bones out on the piece of paper and use the bone identification chart to sort and arrange the bones by animal.
- 5 Once sorted, you can observe and see some similarities between the bone structures of rodents and humans.

### How It Works

Since owls don't have teeth, they swallow their prey whole. The undigested bones and fur are then regurgitated as a pellet, which is a great place to look for the bones of rodents. A rodent's bone structure, along with many other organisms, are very similar to humans. For example, the arm of both a rodent and a human have the same pattern: One bone in the upper arm, connected to two bones in the forearm, which is connected to a bunch of little bones in the wrist, and those bones are connected to fingers. This is one piece of evidence that we may be related.