



Southeast Alaska Discovery Center

Art to Go – Felt Owl Activity

Activity Goal: Owls are fascinating birds that have special adaptations that allow them to be excellent hunters. Owls are found on every continent and are often the subject of cultural myths and legends around the world. Mysterious and often view as being wise, owls are a hoot to study. In this activity you will learn about owl adaptation and create your own felt owl decoration.

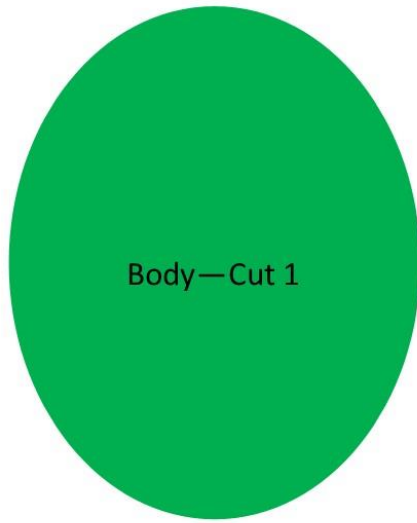


Supplies:

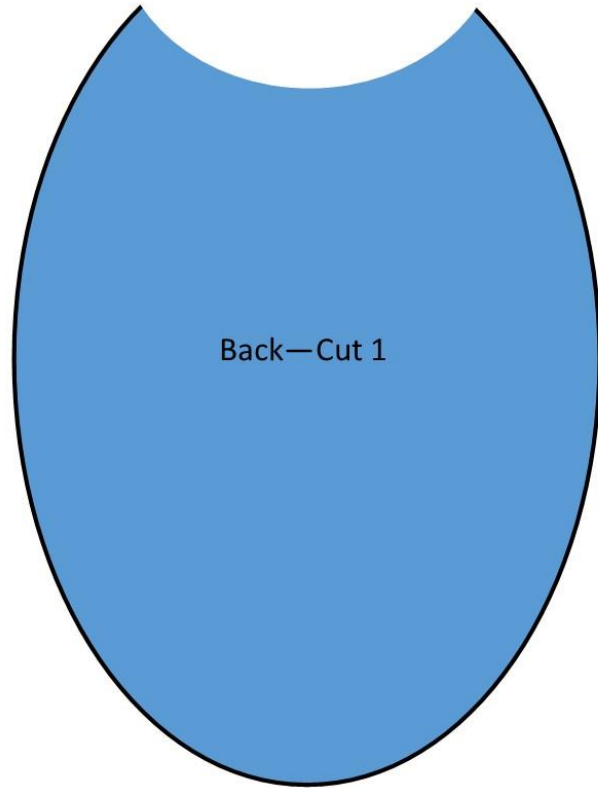
1. Medium weight felt
2. Glue – White Craft Glue
3. Felt Owl Template
4. String and needle
5. Scissors
6. Wiggle Eyes and Feathers (optional)

Directions:

1. Discuss with the group the physical adaptations that help owls survive. (See attached owl fact sheet.)
2. Trace the template parts onto the felt. Cut out the body parts using scissors.
3. Glue the parts together in the following order using white craft glue
 - a. Place the back on a flat surface and glue the body to the center of the back.
 - b. Glue the beak to the back above the body.
 - c. Glue the mask to the back covering the top edge of the beak; add felt eyes or wiggly eyes to the mask.
 - d. Glue the wings on either side overlapping the body.
 - e. Glue the feet to the bottom of the back.
 - f. Glue feathers to the back of the project to form the tail (optional).
4. Using needle place string at the center of the top to form a loop for hanging.



Body—Cut 1



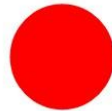
Back—Cut 1



Foot —Cut 2



Wing —Cut 2



Eye—Cut 2



Mask —Cut 1



Beak —Cut 1



Fun Facts About Owls

- Owls are excellent hunters.
- Many owl species have asymmetrical ears. When located at different heights on the owl's head, their ears are able to pinpoint the location of sounds in multiple dimensions. Ready, aim, strike.
- The eyes of an owl are not true "eyeballs." Their tube-shaped eyes are completely immobile, providing binocular vision which fully focuses on their prey and boosts depth perception.
- Owls can rotate their necks 270 degrees.
- The Northern Hawk Owl can detect—primarily by sight—a vole to eat up to a half a mile away.
- Owls hunt other owls. Great Horned Owls are the top predator of the smaller Barred Owl.
- In fat years when mice are plentiful, usually monogamous Boreal Owls may have more than one mate. Easy prey means less work for parents feeding their young.
- Barn Owls swallow their prey whole—skin, bones, and all—and they eat up to 1,000 mice each year.
- Owls are zygodactyl, which means their feet have two forward-facing toes and two backward-facing toes. Unlike most other zygodactyl birds, however, owls can pivot one of their back toes forward to help them grip and walk.
- Northern Saw-whet Owls can travel long distances over large bodies of water. One showed up 70 miles from shore near Montauk, New York.
- Not all owls hoot! Barn Owls make hissing sounds, the Eastern Screech-Owl whinnies like a horse, and Saw-whet Owls sound like, well, an old whetstone sharpening a saw. Hence the name.
- The tiniest owl in the world is the Elf Owl, which is 5 - 6 inches tall and weighs about 1 ½ ounces. The largest North American owl, in appearance, is the Great Gray Owl, which is up to 32 inches tall.
- A group of owls is called a parliament.

Adapted from [13 Fun Facts About Owls](https://www.audubon.org/news/13-fun-facts-about-owls), National Audubon Society, October 15, 2015
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