



Summer Camp

Into the Outback Day 6

4-8TH GRADE

WELCOME

(5 min)

Instructions: Welcome your students to camp. Say, "This week we will be exploring Australia! Australia is the 6th largest country in the world! Its landscape is made up of deserts and rainforests. It is even home to the Great Barrier Reef. Australia has so much to offer, and it is home to some of the world's most unique animals. Today we get to explore owls!"



Remind students they have the opportunity to earn sand dollars when they complete a task, help another student, help set up or clean up, write in their journal, read a book, etc. Tally the amount of sand dollars that each student earned from helping and record it on the weekly pay role sheet.

GAME TIME

(25 min)

OWL I-SPY

Instructions: Players sit in a large circle. Ask one player to be the owl and leave the room. While the owl is out, choose a leader to begin a motion (for example: tapping toes, blinking, turning heads). Everyone in the circle will follow the leader. Bring the owl back into the room and have them sit in the center of the circle and watch with their owl eyes to guess who is the leader. The leader will occasionally change motions and everyone will begin doing the new motions. When the owl has guessed the leader, the leader will become the new owl and a new round will begin. If the owl cannot guess who the leader is after a few motions, then a new leader is chosen.

STEM TIME

(90 min)

Materials:

- Owl pellets
- Toby Tweezers
- Paper plate
- Bone sorting chart
- Cardstock paper
- Glue
- Microscopes (optional)

OWL PELLET EXPLORATION

Say: "Owls live everywhere in the world, and that includes Australia! Today we are going to be dissecting owl pellets. Pellets are a record of what owls have eaten, and scientists study them to learn more about the owl and the ecosystems they live in. Pellets are coughed up and not pooped. These pellets have been sterilized before use. Let's dive in and see what we discover!"

Instructions:

1. Watch the movie on pellet dissection. *You don't need a mask for the lab.
2. Pass out 1 pellet per student on a paper plate. *See teacher tip sheet online.
3. Unwrap the foil from the owl pellet. Gently pull the pellet into two halves. The students can use their tweezers and some toothpicks.
4. Have the students use the key to see what the owl ate and sort their bones.
5. Have the students take time to assemble a skeleton from their bones. Once the bones are arranged glue the bones in place on a piece of cardstock paper and label the major bones if they are old enough to write.
6. Observe your bones under the microscope for closer observation!

Ask: "What animals do you think these bones could belong to? Can someone help me draw a food-web from the owl to it's prey and on down?"

FREE PLAY

(20 min)

READING / JOURNAL TIME

(20 min)

WORD GAME

(20 min)

Materials:

- Whiteboard
- Dry erase markers

ART TIME

(60 min)

Materials:

- Paper bowls, smaller is better
- Wax paper
- Bag of flour
- 2 large containers of morton salt
- Water
- Bowls for mixing
- Optional: PVC pipes to use as rolling pins
- Feathers

FLY AWAY AND PLAY

Instructions: Congratulate your students for their excellent careful work as scientists and let them fly off for some free time!

Instructions: Go outside and make a nest to sit in as a class out of the sheets you used for the blanket fort. Read the story about Amazing Animal Senses (digital/printable copy is on the webpage; page 7 discusses the special senses that owls have). *If you have extra time, allow students to write and draw in their journals, and read some books in the hammocks if you have time.

WORD GAMES

Say: "We are going to play a word game! In this game we will choose a word and see how many words you can come up with using the letters in that word!"

Instructions:

1. Have the students gather in desks or on the ground in front of a whiteboard.
2. Choose a word related to your theme, such as "owl", "Australia," "kangaroo," etc. and write it on the board.
3. Challenge the students to use the letters in the word to come up with other words. Each letter in the word can only be used once. For example, in the word hospital you cannot use the word hall, because there is only one "L" in hospital.
4. Write all of the words on the board, and see how many great words the students can come up with! This fun for all ages. Students love the challenge!

MAKE FEATHER IMPRESSION PENDANTS

Objective: Today students get to make homemade salt dough. With their salt dough they get to make a feather impression that they will then turn into a pendant. Allow students to make as many fossil pendants as they would like.

Instructions: Salt dough is actually a very good low fire clay that can be baked in an oven or even set outside in the sun for the hot part of the day for 2-4 days to dry. Air dry clay can also be used but it is a lot more expensive.

1. Have students go on a nature walk to collect feathers, or bring one or a couple that they want to use for their pendants.
2. Pair students up in groups of 5 to make the salt dough recipe. Remind them to work as a team and allow everyone to have a turn with creating the dough.
3. Roll out salt dough and cut out medium sized circles.
4. Have students take their feathers and make imprints into their circles of salt dough. Students can poke a little hole in their circle pendant to use as a necklace, bracelet, ring, etc. Allow them to be creative!

Instructions for making salt dough for each group of 5:

1. In a large bowl, stir together 2 cups of salt and 1 cup of warm water.
2. Slowly stir in the 2 cups of flour to the salt and water mixture.
3. Knead the mixture by hand to better combine the ingredients. The mixture should become doughy; add more flour if needed. Customize the amount of salt and water depending on your climate.
4. Divide the dough among the students and start creating!
5. Leave them in the sun to harden for 2-4 days.