

Birds of a Feather

Teacher-led Activity



Owls are incredible birds with stunning feathers, big eyes, and an amazing ability to turn their heads backwards! They might be best known for the interesting sounds they make. Use the links below to play the songs of different species of owls for your students (you will need internet access and speakers). Compare those to the last few links of different bird calls. Have students guess what birds make those sounds!



Great Horned Owl: http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great_Horned_Owl/sounds

Spotted Owl: http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Spotted_Owl/sounds

Barred Owl: http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Barred_Owl/sounds

Western Screech Owl: http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Western_Screech-Owl/sounds

Barn Owl: http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Barn_Owl/sounds

Guess these Mystery Birds!

1. <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Mallard/sounds>
(Hint: this bird is a great swimmer!)
2. https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Western_Gull/sounds
(Hint: you can find this bird by the sea!)
3. https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-tailed_Hawk/sounds
(Hint: this bird of prey is named after the color of its tail!)
4. https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/California_Quail/sounds
(Hint: California's state bird!)

Knock, knock

- Who's there?

Whooo

- Whooo who?

What, is there an owl in here??

Which of the five senses did you use while doing this activity?

Did you know that owls have an excellent sense of hearing to help them hunt for their prey?

Play this quick game to find your food just like an owl:

Have the class sit in a circle. Pick one student to be the owl and sit in the center with eyes closed (or blindfolded). Pick another student to be the mouse and they will move around the outside of the circle. After 10 seconds, the mouse must squeak, and the owl has to guess where the mouse is by pointing in its direction (no peeking!). If the owl guesses it right, the mouse becomes the owl, and the owl can pick a new person to be the mouse. If the owl guessed wrong, the mouse can keep circling until the owl can correctly point to the sound.



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Mystery Birds revealed:

1. Mallard Duck,
2. Western Gull,
3. Red-Tailed Hawk,
4. California Quail