

Name: _____

Lab Partner: _____



Owl Pellet Investigation

How many skulls do you predict you will find? _____

Unwrap the pellet. Examine and describe the exterior. (fur, feathers, bones, etc.)

Illustration

Measurement:

Length of pellet: _____

Width of pellet: _____

Mass of pellet: _____



Investigation:

1. Carefully use the toothpick to separate the fur and the bones.
2. Sort the bones into separate group types.
3. Record your findings on the chart.
4. Use the bone chart to help you identify the bones.

Record your findings



Bone	Sketch	Number found
Skull		
Jaw (mandible)		
Scapula		
Humerus		
Radius/Ulna		
Femur		
Fibula/Tibia		
Pelvic bone		
Rib		
Vertebrae		

What is the **maximum** number of bones found? _____

What is the **minimum** number of bones found? _____

What is the **range**? _____

What is the **class average** of number of skulls found in a pellet? _____

Using the **class average**, how many animals are consumed:

Per day: _____

Per week: _____

Per month: _____

Per year: _____

Analysis:

- How can we determine the diet of an owl by examining a pellet? _____

- Based on the number of skulls found in your pellet, how many animals were consumed by the owl? _____
- How do the bones found in an owl pellet give us clues about the owl's habitat? _____

- What would you expect to find in the pellet of a bird that lives by the ocean? _____

