

# Paper Tube Owls 6-8

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## Lesson

Owls .... "Whoooo" doesn't love Owls?

They are amazing raptors, or birds of prey, that appear to stare at us when we see them. There are over 200 different kinds of Owls that are either in the members of the Barn Owl family or the Typical Owl family. Most belong to the Typical Owl family. These owls have the round face. The Barn Owls have the heart shaped face. Owls have large eyes & a flat face. Their feather colors



of shades of mostly browns & greys help them to camouflage in the trees & landscapes of nature. Owls are very unique! Being able to turn their heads as much as 270 degrees is a great feat that no other creature can do. This enables them to check out their surroundings quietly without moving & being seen. They also have a very acute sense of hearing. Their ears are not the tufts of feathers that you see. On some, these tufts act as traps to bring the sound to the ear slits which are on the sides of their head. Owls can see a long distance away without

moving since they are farsighted, meaning they can't see things clearly close to their eyes. When they see their prey, they are able to swoop in unexpectedly as they have feathers that are adapted to create silent flight compared to other birds of prey.

Not all Owls are active at night (nocturnal). Some are day hunters & others are twilight hunters. You can tell this by their eye colors. Dark black or brown eyes mean they are night hunters. The orange eyed Owls are twilight hunters & the yellow eyed owls are day hunters. They mostly hunt rodents & small creatures, insects & other birds, even barn owls. Some owl species hunt fish. They have powerful talons (claws) which help them catch & kill their prey. One claw can swivel to the front or be in the back when balancing on a branch. A group of Owls is called a parliament. They can be found in almost any types of habitat; woods, prairies, deserts, & yes, also in the tundra! They nest in trees, caves, barns & even holes in the ground. Most birds migrate when the winter comes but Owls usually stay in one area all year around. The female is the larger bird. Often taking over a nest made by other large birds, the female Owl lays up to 3 eggs at a time. The male will bring her food on a cold night as she cannot leave the nest with eggs inside. The eggs hatch in about one month & the young leave the nest in about 3 months but stay close to their parents in a neighboring area. Owls do not attack people for prey, but they do attack to protect their young. Being birds of prey, Owls are protected by law. They have a lifespan of anywhere from 4-15 years, depending on the size of the owl. Owls protected in captivity live longer.



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# Other Learning Resources

## Websites About Owls

<https://www.almanac.com/news/home-health/birds/fascinating-facts-about-owls#>  
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2018/02/superb-owls-ranked-spd/>

## Videos About Owls

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a68fIQzaDBY&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mOXgSrdYQRY>

<https://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/00000144-0a21-d3cb-a96c-7b2d91b80000>

Owls of Florida- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bG2vAWrp9YA>

## Questions For Students

What continent does not have any owls?

Who has the better eyesight at night, a cat or an owl?

Do all owls hoot?

Is it illegal to touch an Owl?

What is the smallest Owl in the US & Where does it live?

Can you name a native Owl to Florida?



## Materials

- Paper tubes (toilet or paper towel tube)
- Light weight cardboard like cereal or tissue box cardboards or file folders
- Tissue paper in earthy shades
- Markers and Crayons in browns, black & gray
- Scissors
- Glue
- 2 large Googly eyes or create your own out of paper
- Permanent markers in orange, yellow or brown

# Instructions



1. Gather all your materials.
2. Cut tube to desired size for your Owl.
3. With 2 fingers, push down on the top rim of the tube then turn the tube & push down on the other side of that same rim. This is the Owl's head tufts.
4. Start to create your Owl by cutting small ovals in tissue paper or other paper & glue them onto the tube covering most of it as layers of feathers, marking these with color strokes OR you can just mark light strokes of your color choices all over the tube.
5. Either using Googly Eyes or Creating your own, decide what color eyes your Owl should have. I used permanent Orange marker to color my googly eyes.
6. Glue eyes to the face of your Owl.
7. You can create its hooked bill by cutting a folded triangle & glue between your eyes.
8. Cut 2 large ovals from another tube or the cereal box or tissue paper for the wings, snipping the edges & marking the wings as desired.
9. Find an inside location for your Owl to be camouflaged & see if your family will discover it. Then share what you learned about owls.

