

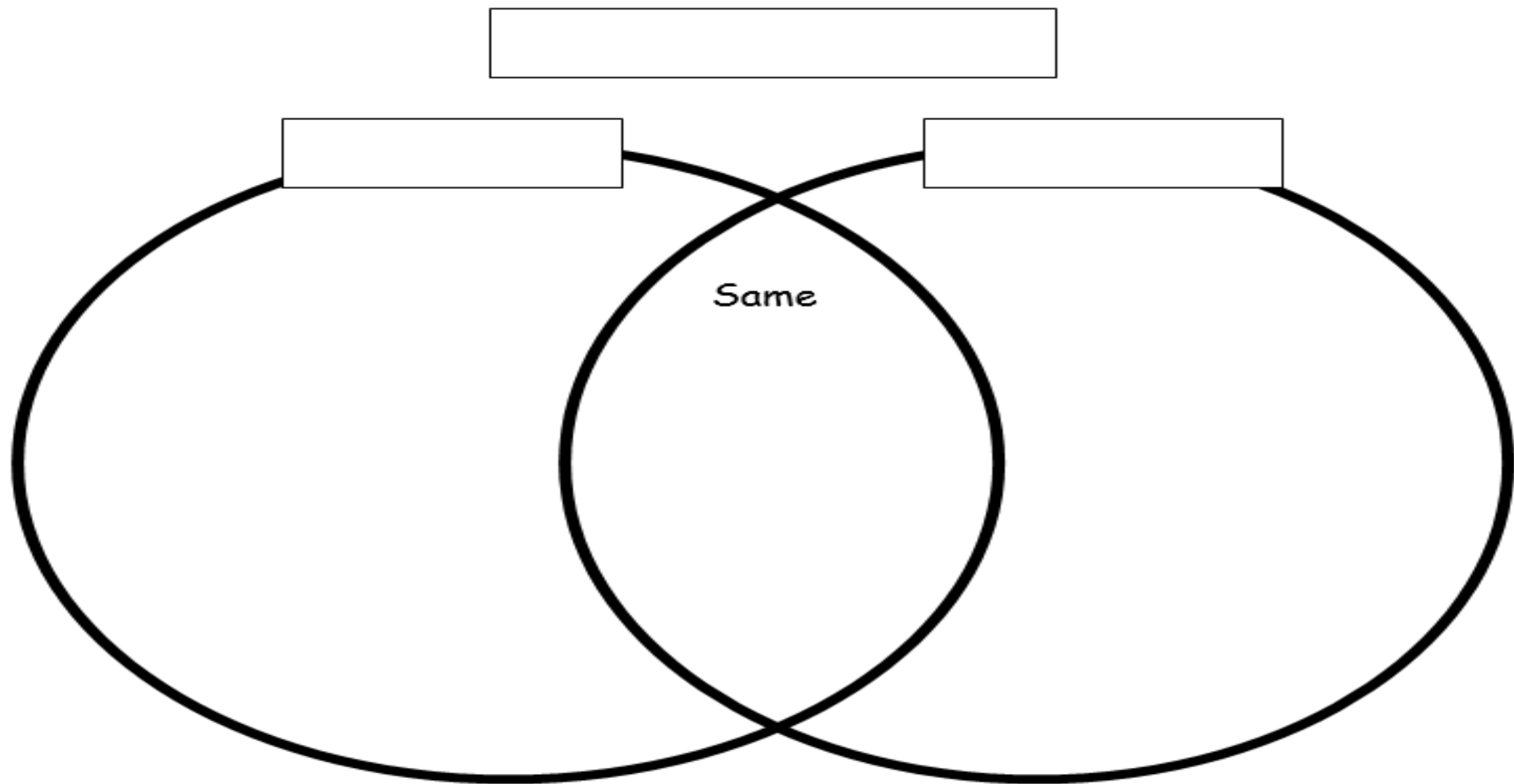
ARTSmart: Owls



Compare and Contrast

Use the Venn Diagram that follows to list how these owls are different and the same.





Maurice Bebb

Born 1891, Chicago, Illinois

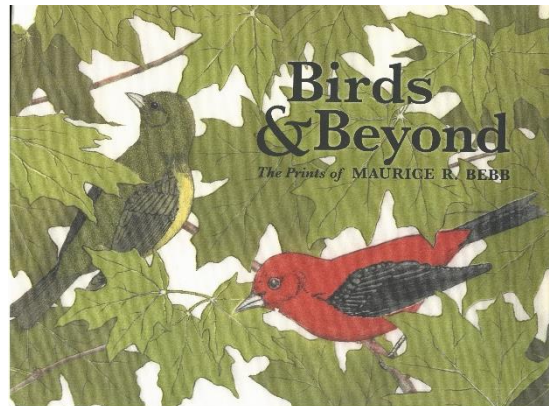
Died 1986, Muskogee, Oklahoma

Screech Owl, 1977

Aquatint and softground etching on satin

Gift of the Maurice Bebb family, 2018.356

Bebb was a florist, and an avid botanist, birder, print collector, and self-trained printmaker. After retiring in 1951, he decided to focus on printmaking, finding support from fellow members of the Prairie Print Makers. A birdwatcher since fifth grade, Bebb created detailed ornithological images of birds in their environment, producing nearly one hundred such images with information about each. The text for this print reads, “The Eastern Screech Owl (*Magascops asio*) can be found in two different color morphs—red and gray.” The red morph pictured here is one of three images of screech owls created by the artist.



Jyoti Bhatt

Born 1934, Bhavnagar, Gujarat, India

The Lost Pundit (N.Y. 1966), 1978

Etching

1985.14

Bhatt is an artist and scholar of Indian folk art. His prints explore the language of Indian cultural symbols. The owl features heavily in Hindu literature and is often associated with wealth and wisdom based on its innovative and successful hunting skills. The Goddesses Lakshmi and Dhamunda have owls as their Vahana, a spirit used for communication. The owl in Bhatt's image appears to be some kind of physical and spiritual guide as well, an idea suggested by the presence of arrows next to it and the symbols of Eastern and Western religions on its body.



Owl Facts



Owls can't move their eyes like humans can – they have to turn their heads to see.

- There are around 200 different owl species.
- Owls are active at night (nocturnal).
- A group of owls is called a parliament.
- Most owls hunt insects, small mammals and other birds.
- Some owl species hunt fish.
- Owls have powerful talons (claws) which help them catch and kill prey.
- Owls have large eyes and a flat face.
- Owls can turn their heads as much as 270 degrees.
- Owls are farsighted, meaning they can't see things close to their eyes clearly.
- Owls are very quiet in flight compared to other birds of prey.
- The color of owl's feathers helps them blend into their environment (camouflage).
- Barn owls can be recognized by their heart shaped face.

A pellet, in ornithology (the study of birds), is the mass of undigested parts of a bird's food that some bird species occasionally regurgitate. The contents of a bird's pellet depend on its diet, but can include the exoskeletons of insects, indigestible plant matter, bones, fur, feathers, bills, claws, and teeth.

The passing of pellets allows a bird to remove indigestible material from its proventriculus (glandular stomach). In birds of prey, the regurgitation of pellets serves the bird's health in another way, by "scouring" parts of the digestive tract, including the gullet. Pellets are formed within six to ten hours of a meal in the bird's gizzard (muscular stomach).

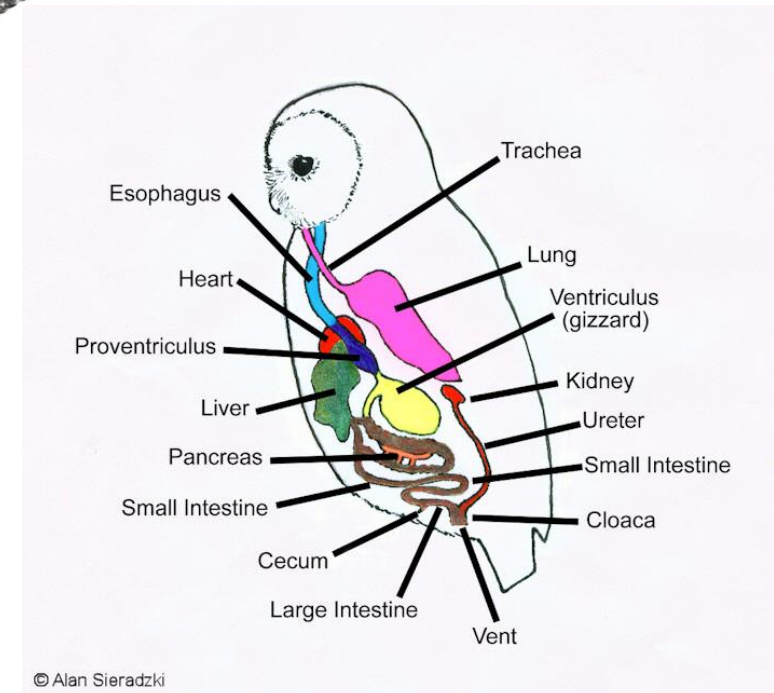
Ornithologists may collect one species' pellets over time to analyze its eating habits. One advantage of collecting pellets is that it allows for the determination of diet without the killing and dissection of the bird.

Pellets are found in different locations, depending on the species. In general, these are roosting and nesting sites: for most hawks and owls, under coniferous trees; for barn owls, at the bases of cliffs or in barns and silos; for yet other species of owls, at their burrows or in marsh and field grasses.

Hawk and owl pellets are grey or brown, and range in shape from spherical to oblong or plug-shaped. In large birds, they are one to two inches long.

Warning: The hair, bones and other body parts (such as limbs, skin fragments, and even feces) of rodents found in owl pellets may carry rodent viruses and bacteria. For this reason, they are sometimes sterilized before study.

Owl Pellets



OWLS OF THE WORLD



**WESTERN
SCREECH OWL**
Megascops kennicottii



BARRED OWL
Strix varia

**EUROPEAN
SCOPS OWL**
Otus scops

**BOREAL
OWL**
Aegolius funereus



**MADAGASCAR
LONG-EARED
OWL**
Asio madagascariensis



**GREAT
GRAY OWL**
Strix nebulosa



SNOWY OWL
Bubo scandiacus



**GREAT
HORNED
OWL**
Bubo virginianus



**ELF
OWL**
Micrathene whitneyi



**NORTHERN
SAW WHET OWL**
Aegolius acadicus



**BUFFY FISH
OWL**
Bubo ketupu



**LONG
EARED
OWL**
Asio otus



**SHORT-EARED
OWL**
Asio flammeus

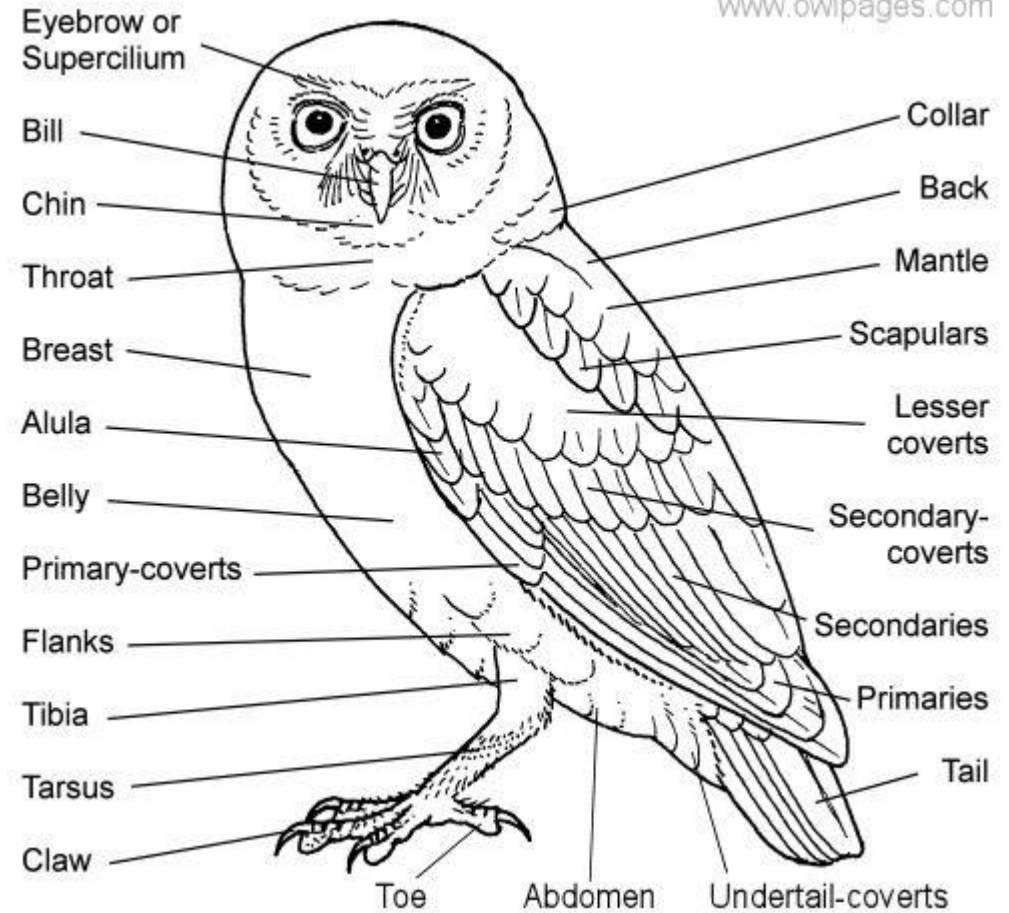
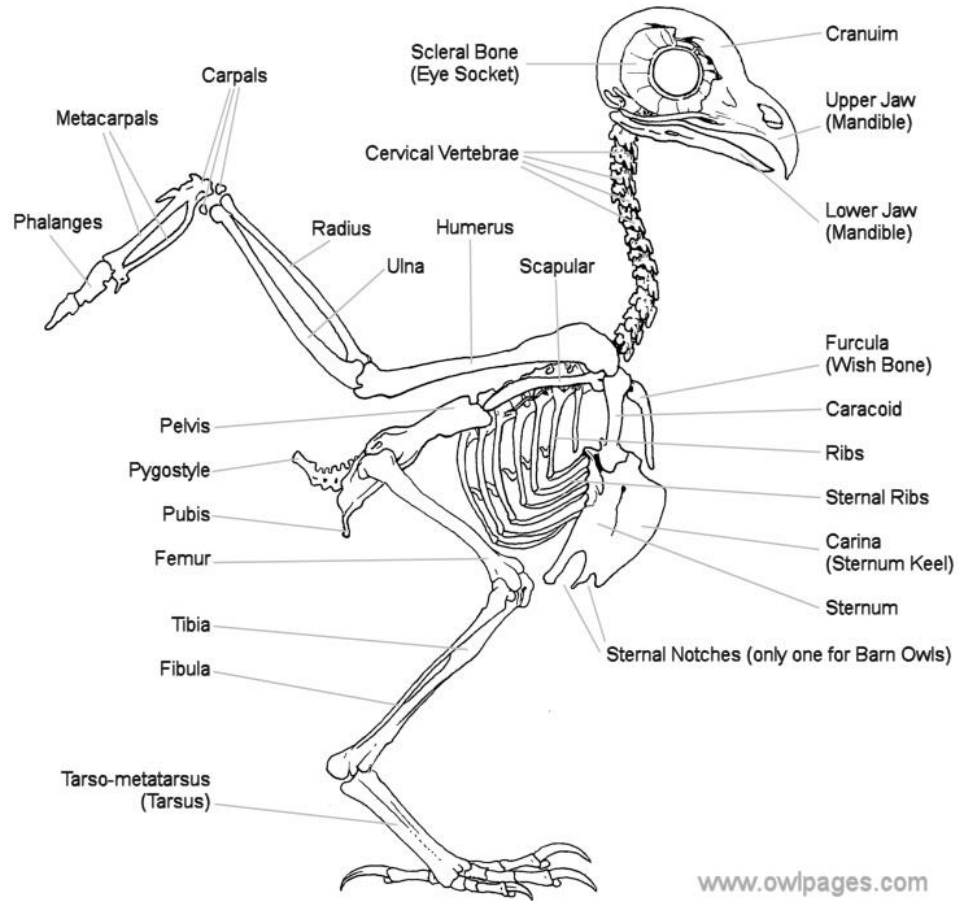


**EURASIAN
EAGLE OWL**
Bubo bubo

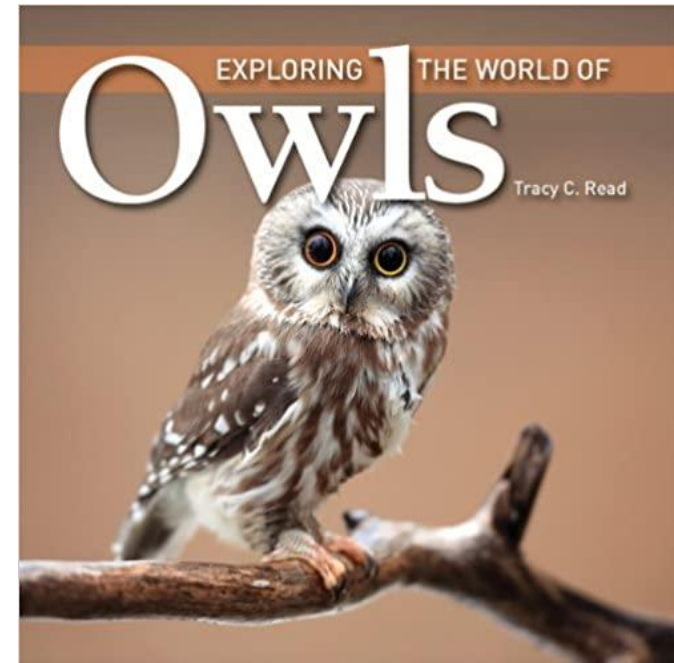
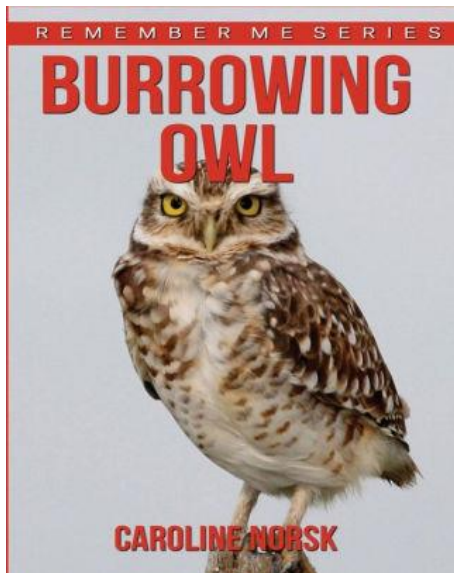
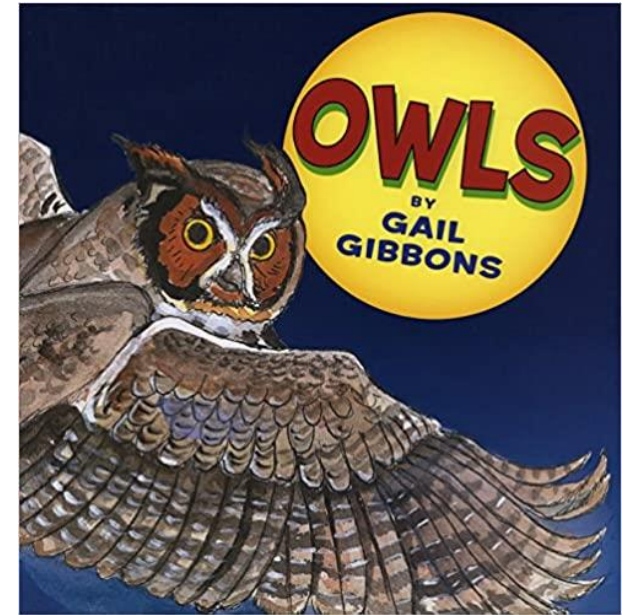
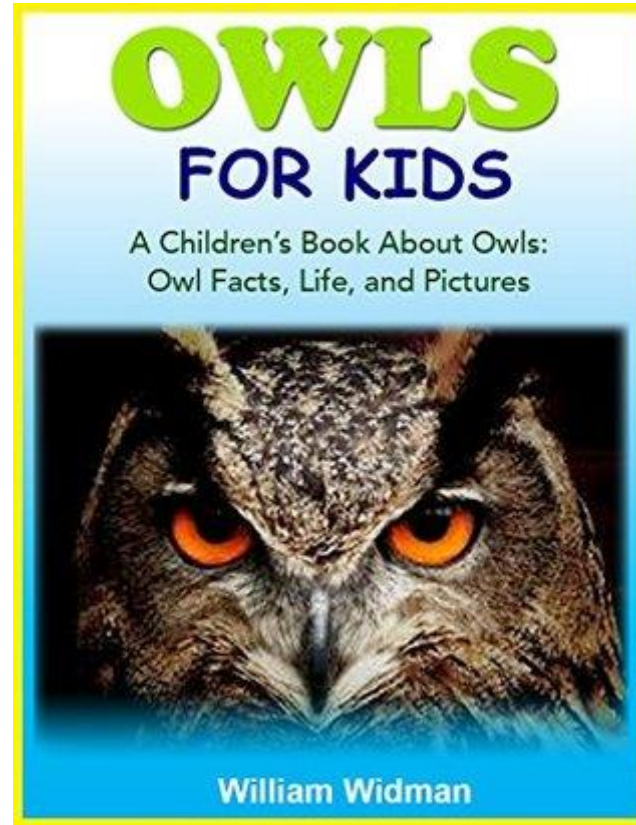


**BURROWING
OWL**
Athene cunicularia

Owl Anatomy



Learn more about owls



Additional Owls from the BMA collection



John Frederick Helm, Jr.

Bookplate for Mary & Lawrence Pollack, ca. 1958

Wood engraving on paper

KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, gift
of Mary Helm Pollack, 2002.370

Judith Bledsoe

Untitled (lady with owl), 1974

Color etching with embossment on paper

KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, gift
of Gilbert E. Johnson, 2017.15





Nellie Bica (1904-c 1990's) is considered one of the most famous Zuni potters of the mid-20th century. She is especially noted for her pottery owl figures.

In 1917, Nellie learned to make pottery: "My mother's youngest sister taught me when I was in my teens. Owls were the first potteries I made. That's the way they taught them in those days. I always put babies on my owls. I think I was one of the first to make owls with legs. Now my daughter and three granddaughters make them, too."

In Zuni lore, the owl is the protector of the home and the keeper of the night. ... He is able to see what others cannot see and is thought to be very observant and perceptive.



Nellie Bica (Zuni Pueblo She-We-Ne)

Zuni Storyteller Owl with Chicks, 20th century

Earthenware with pigments

KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, gift of Mel and Mary Cottom, 2012.196



Here is another owl by Paone
from the Woodmere Art
Museum



Peter Paone

Surreal Woman, 1970

Color lithograph on paper

KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, gift of Donald J. Mrozek and R. Scott Dorman, 2013.213



No. 4 Black print



No. 12 Darkening bough and leaves



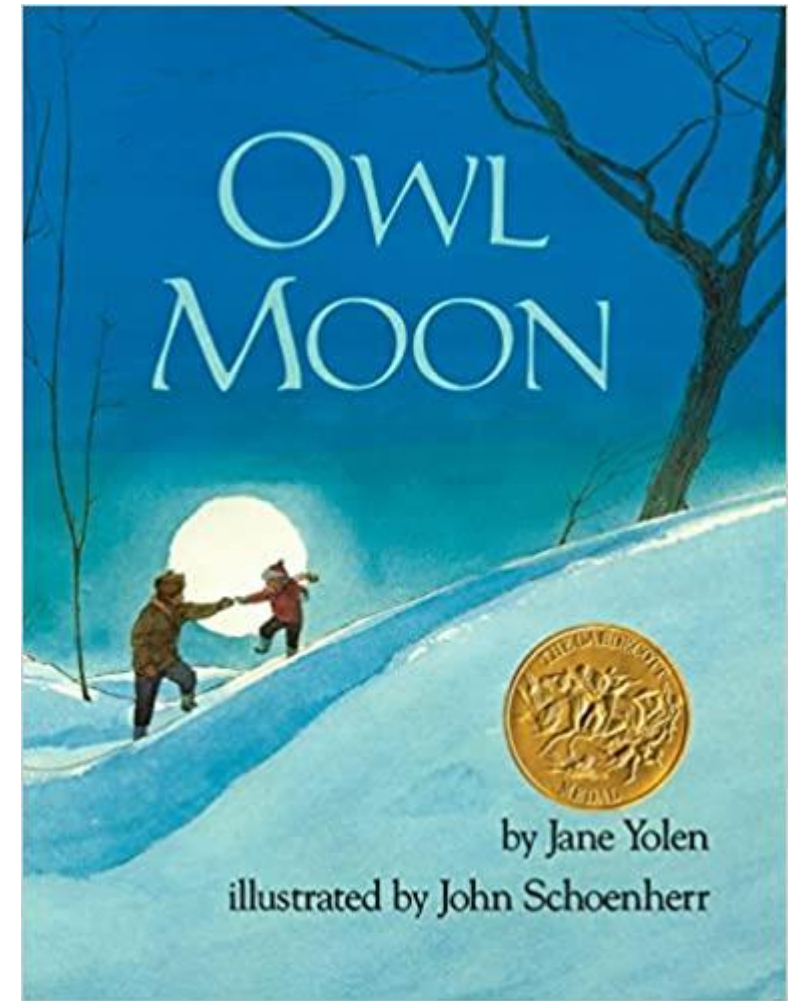
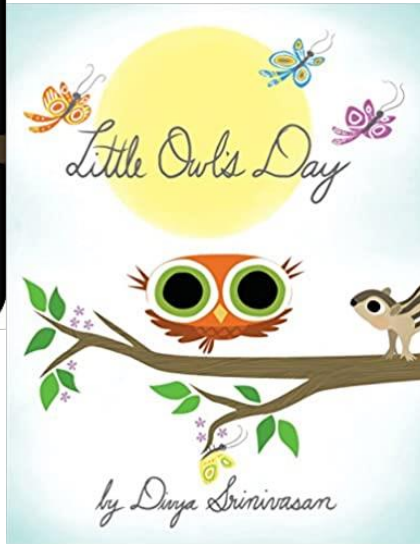
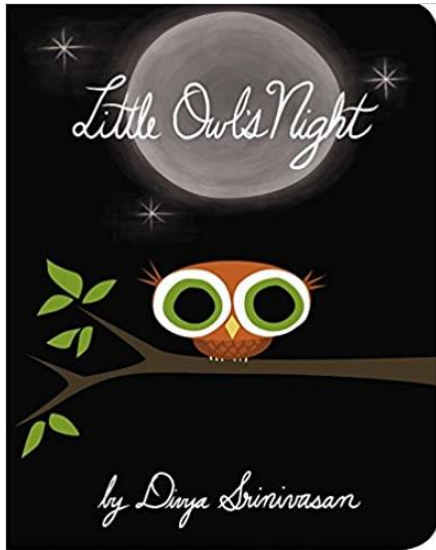
No. 16 Pressing for feathers -
Finish.

This set of 16 prints (only three are shown) details how a wood block print is made, starting with the outline and then a separate block for each layer of color.

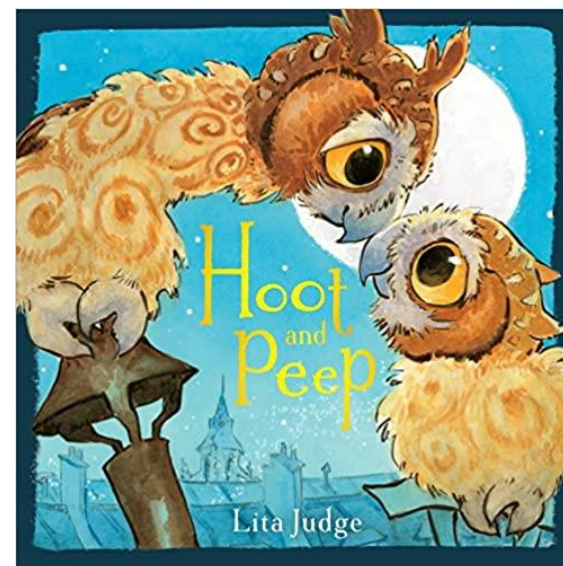
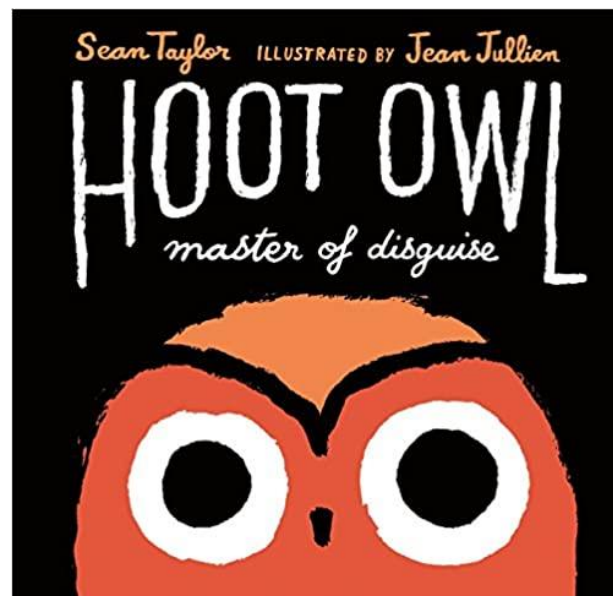
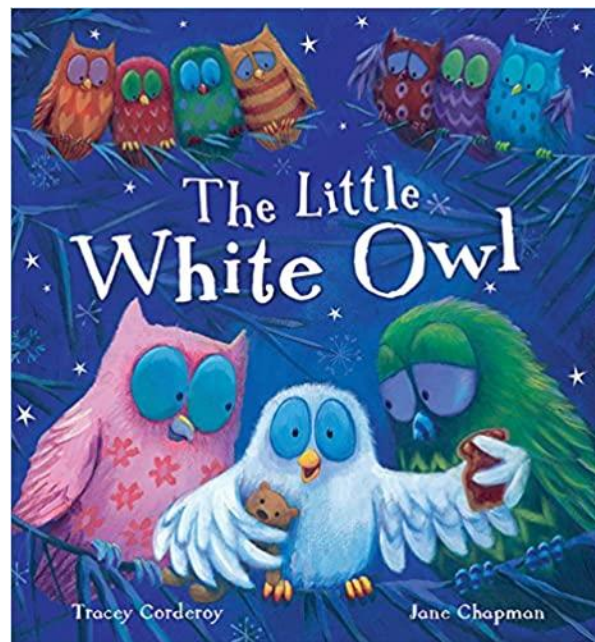
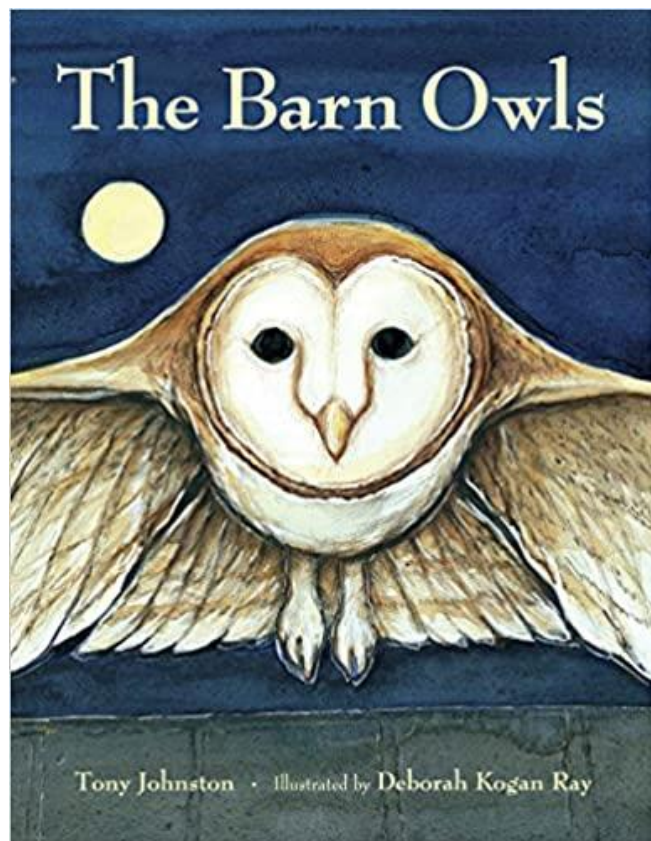
Artist unknown, In the style of Utagawa (Ando) Hiroshige

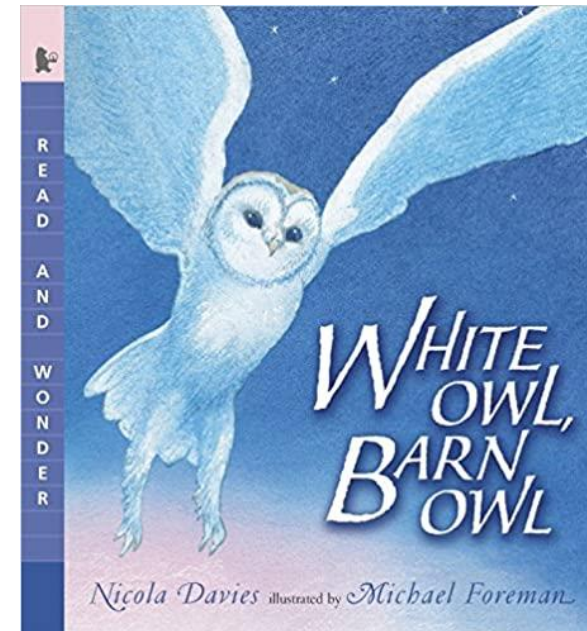
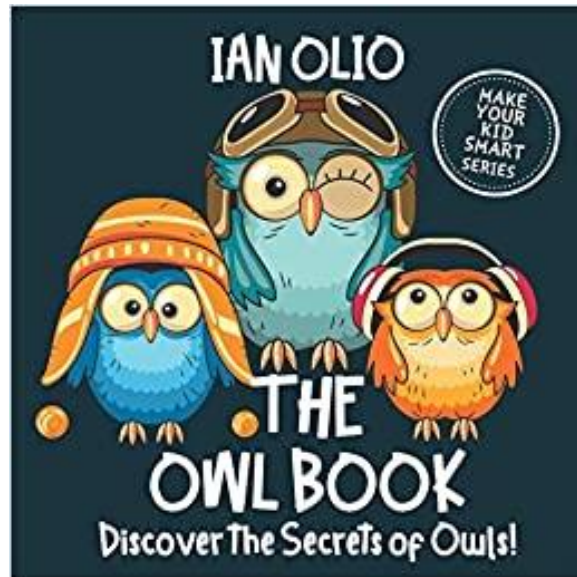
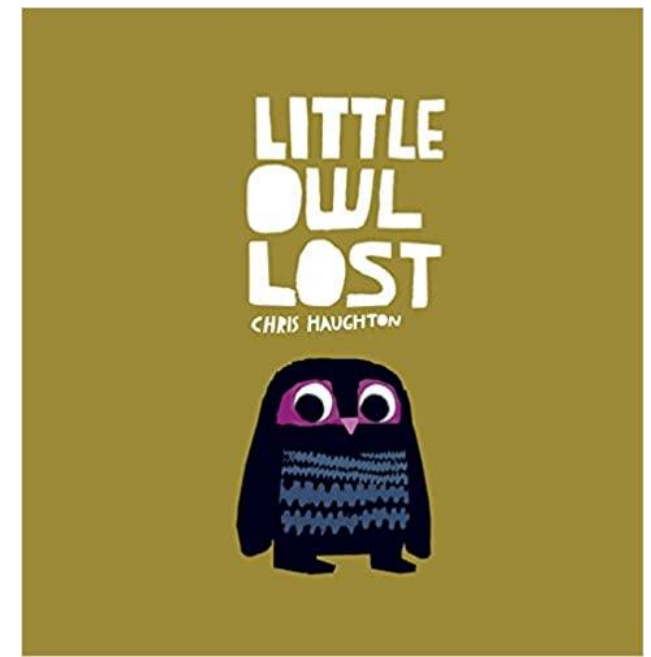
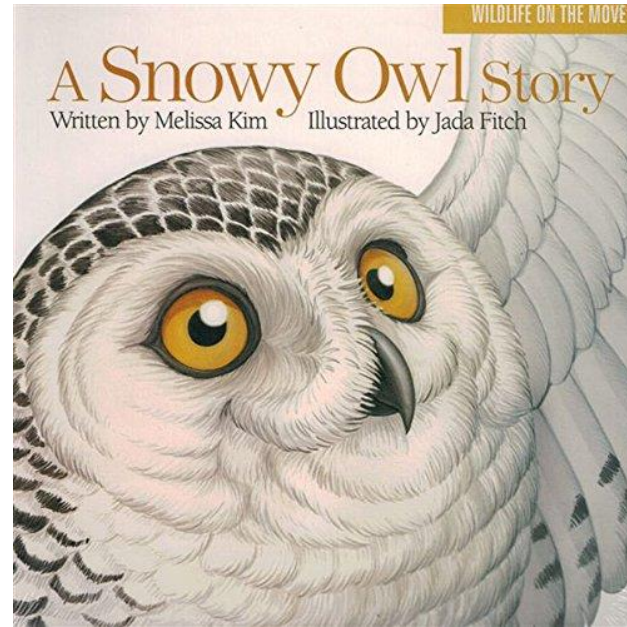
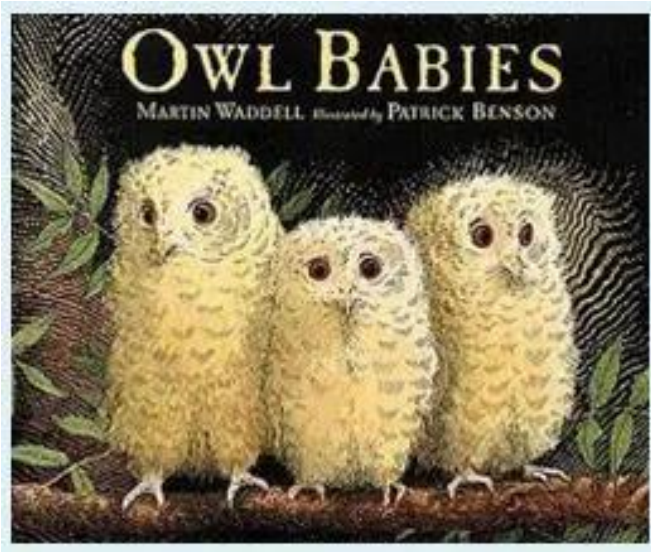
An Owl on a Pine Bough by Hiroshige: Printing Process on Japanese Colored Woodcuts, 20th Century Colored woodblock on paper
KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, S8.2016

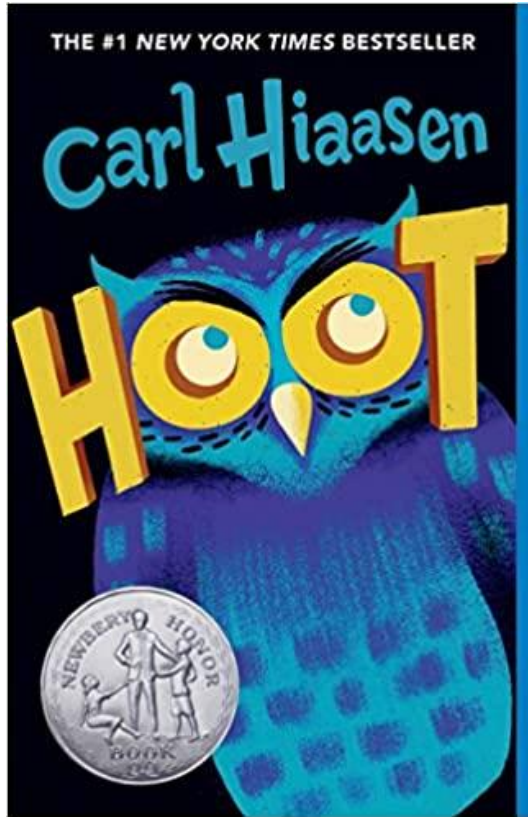
Picture Books



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

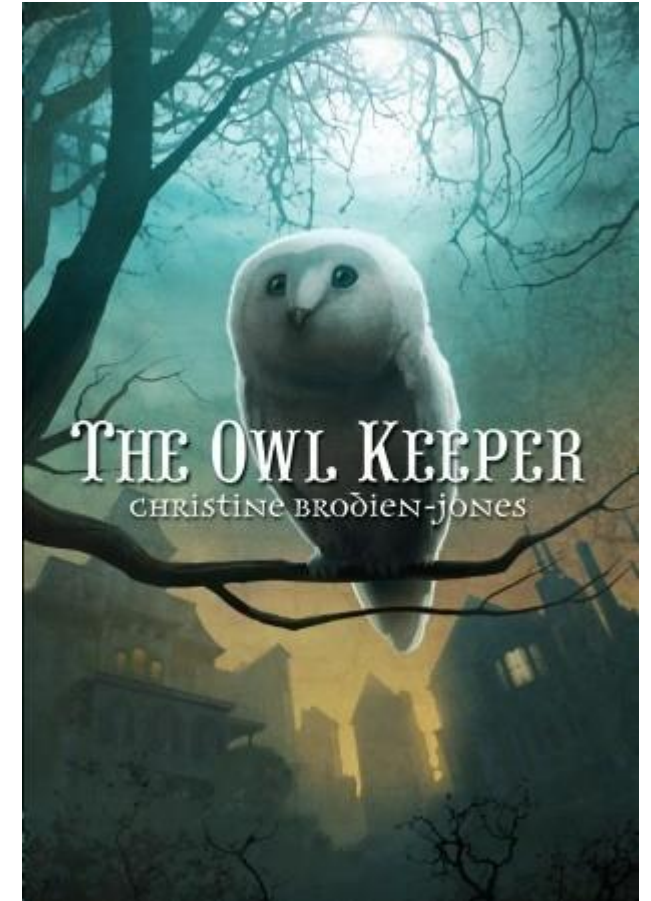






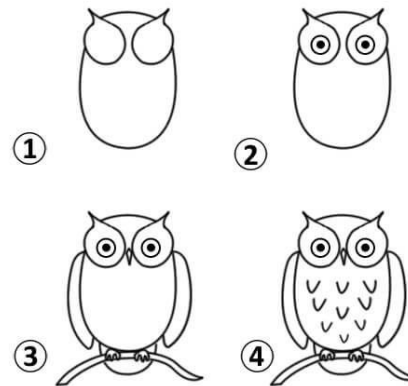
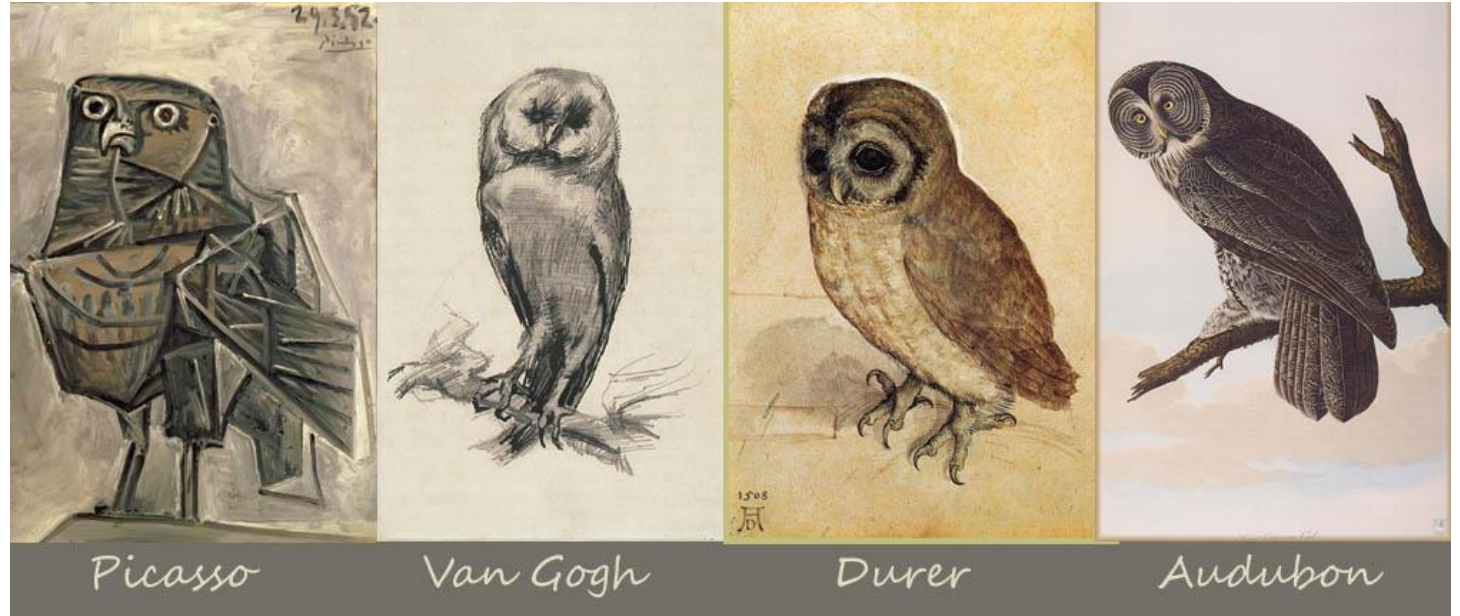
For older kids

The Guardians of Ga'Hoole by Kathryn Lasky



Art Projects

Here are some owls by famous artists in different artistic styles. Draw your own owl!



When you draw an animal start out with basic shapes – if you draw lightly you can erase your lines. An owl is really an oval with ears and wings and very big eyes.

Once you have created your owl, think about how to add texture. There are some examples below – you can use real feathers, print with something, use lines for texture, collage with a variety of materials.....





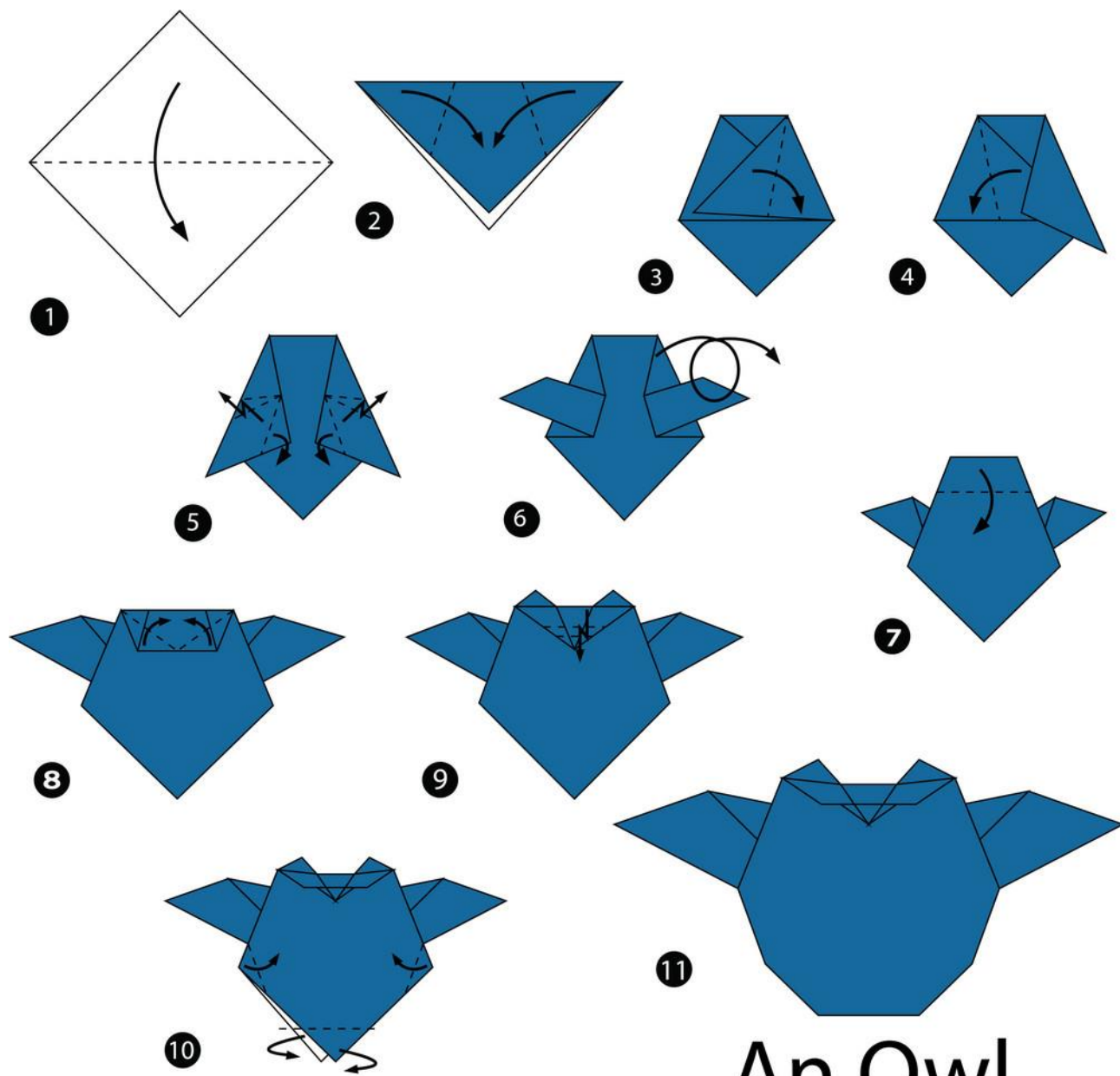
This owl is made by taping together the bottoms of two plastic soda bottles. The paper wrapped around it hides the tape. You may want to put something in the bottom to help it stand up steady.

Another 3-D owl can be made by bending the top of toilet paper rolls to create the ears.

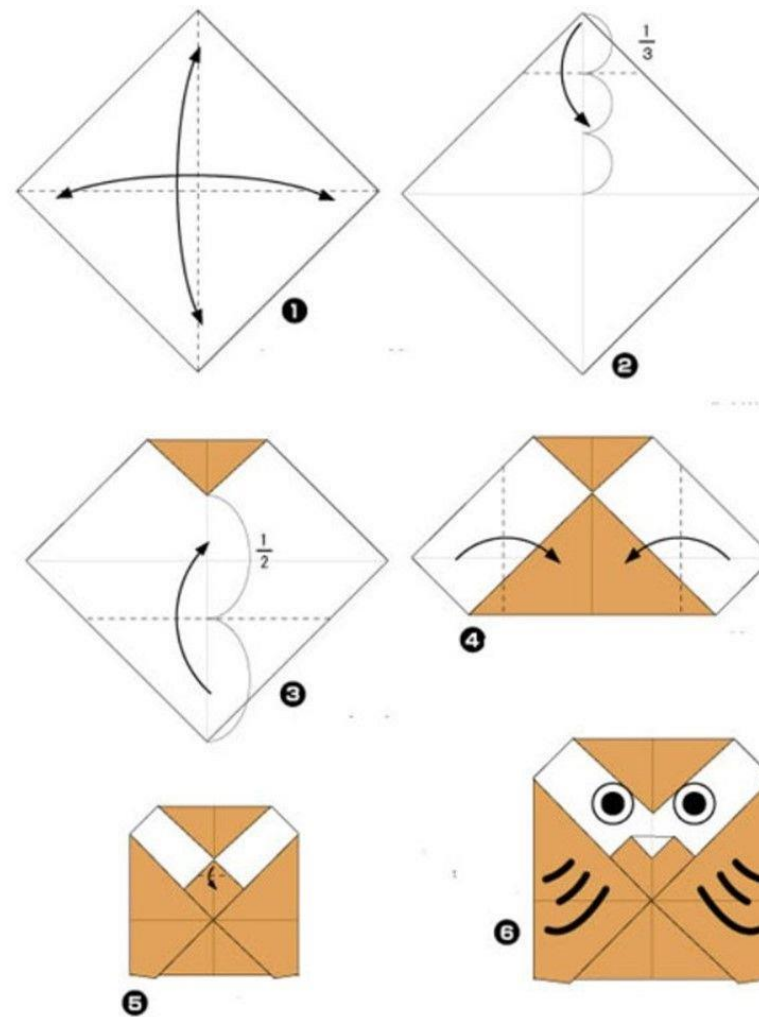


What could be more appropriate than an owl made out of nature?

Origami



An Owl



Famous Owls in myth and literature

Owls are seen as good and bad omens, depending on what culture you are a part of. They feature in mythologies of many countries and show up in literature. Here are a few of the most famous owls!



Athena and her Owl featured on Greek vases and an ancient coin.

The Hindu Goddess Lakshmi with Ukala, her Vahana (spirit messenger). Sometimes she is shown riding the white owl.





Bubo, the mechanical owl given to Perseus by Athena in the movie *Clash of the Titans*.



The Pokémon Owls –
Above, Dartrox and Grifflint
Below, Rowlet, Hoot and
Noctowl



Mr. Know-it-Owl was a character in a TV series, but also advertised the Tootsie Pop. He was asked how many licks to get the center, but never made it past three – he would then bite in!





Owl, from Disney's version of *Winnie the Pooh*



Soren, the main character in the series the *Guardians of Ga'Hoole*

Merlin's owl Archimedes from Disney's *Sword and the Stone* – a movie about King Arthur



Harry Potter and his owl Hedwig





This owl was rescued from the Christmas tree going up in Rockefeller Plaza in 2020! He is a Saw Whet owl, one of the smallest types. He was taken to a wildlife center for a check-up and then released back into the wild.

