# Mystery Object Recording Sheet

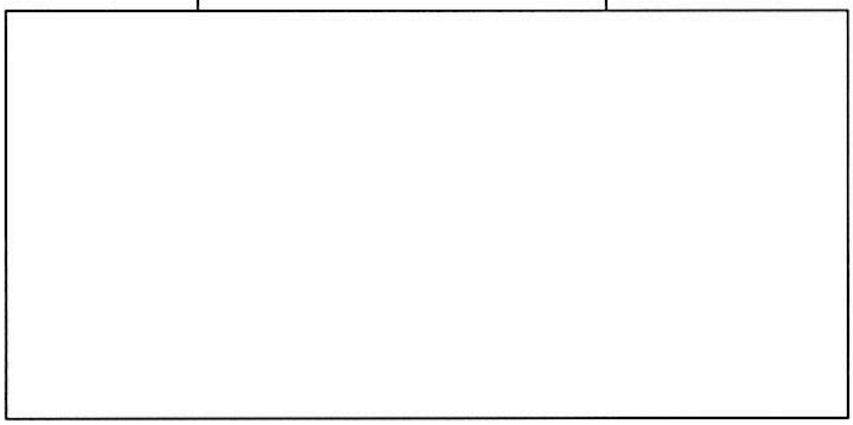
Description: _____

Length: _____

Width: _____

Circumference: _____

Draw a picture of your object.



Before dissecting your object:

1. Record your observations.

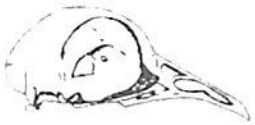
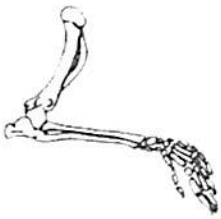
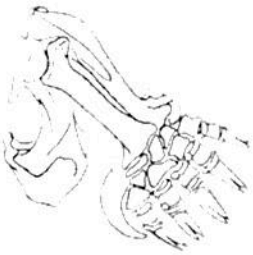
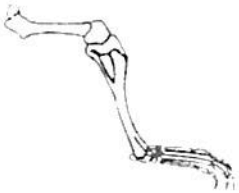
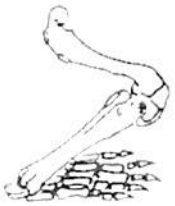
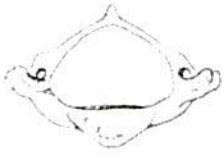
After dissecting:

1. What did you discover?

2. Draw a diagram of the items discovered in the mystery object.

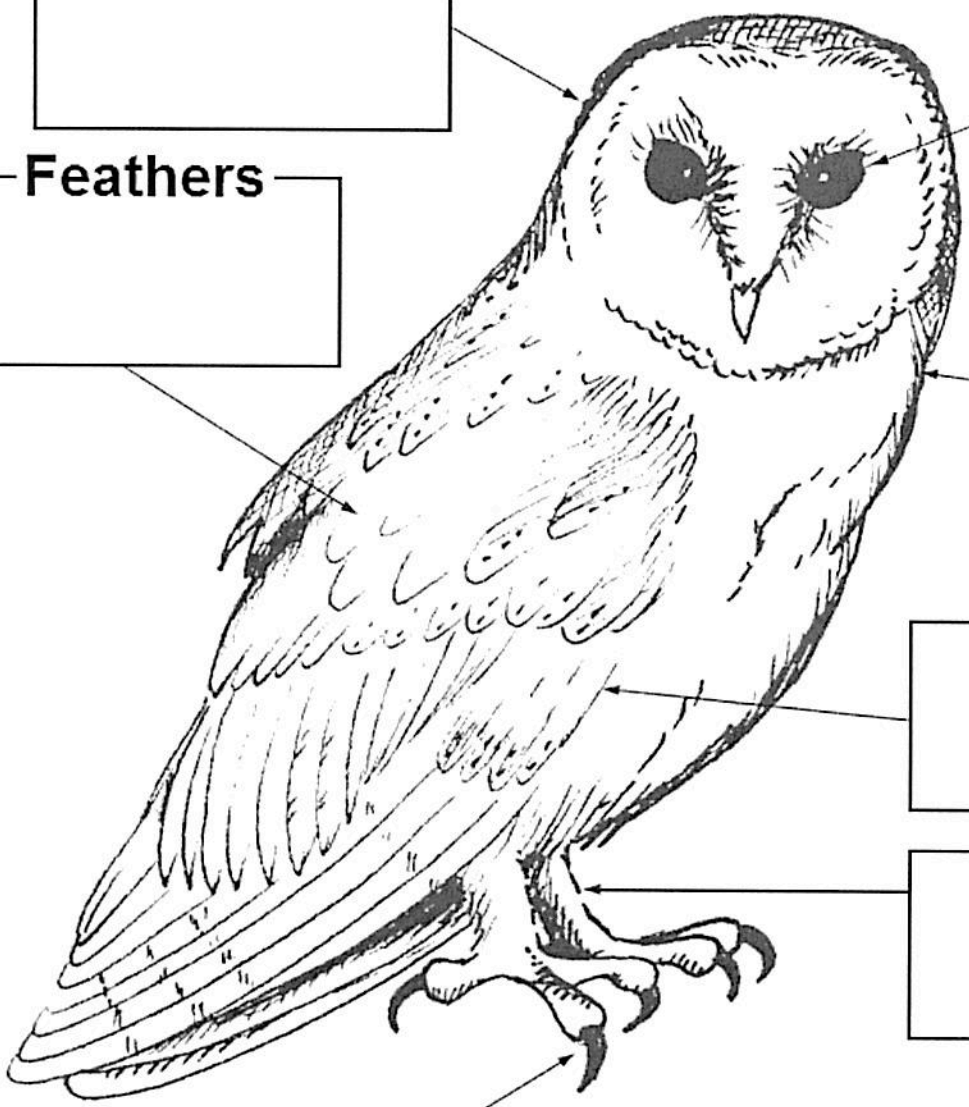
3. What could you conclude about the mystery items from the data you collected?

# OWL PELLET BONE CHART

| | RODENT | SHREW | MOLE | BIRD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SKULL |  |  |  |  |
| JAW |  |  |  |  |
| SCAPULA |  |  |  |  |
| FORE LIMB |  |  |  |  |
| HIND LIMB |  |  |  |  |
| PELVIC BONE |  |  |  |  |
| RIB |  |  |  |  |
| VERTE-BRAE |        | | | |

# Owls

by _____



Ears

Eyes

Feathers

Neck

Wings

Legs

Talons

## Adaptations

# Adaptations

http://www.barnowltrust.org.uk/infopage.html?Id=4

## Flight

Compared to most birds Barn Owls have a very low wing loading (large wings supporting a lightweight body) this means they are able to fly very slowly without stalling and hover in only the slightest lift (rising air). Slow flight gives the birds ample time to locate and pinpoint prey on the ground below, and the low wing loading enables them to pass through the air very gently and hover with minimal effort. The owls' feathers are very soft - another adaptation for quiet flight. The flight feathers are covered in a layer of tiny hairs that trap air within the feather surface and the foremost wing feather (the tenth primary) also has a row of tiny hooks that help to deaden the sound of air hitting the wings' leading edge. Almost-silent flight enables the birds to hear the tiny sounds produced by their small mammal prey and approach them undetected.

## Hearing

The Barn Owl's heart-shaped face works in a similar way to our outer ears - collecting and directing sounds toward the inner ears. The ear openings are situated inside the facial disc just behind the eyes. They are shaped differently and placed asymmetrically (one higher than the other). As a result, sounds reaching the two ears are heard very differently. By analysing these differences the owl's brain automatically calculates the exact position of the sound-source. Experiments with captive owls have confirmed that they are able to locate and capture prey in total darkness - using their hearing alone. Barn Owls are especially good at detecting the high frequency sounds emitted by small mammals moving in vegetation, vocalising and chewing. Sensitive hearing is important even when a Barn Owl is hunting in daylight - their prey is often hidden in deep vegetation.

## Eyesight

No creature can see in complete darkness but Barn Owl eyes are (on average) twice as light sensitive as human eyes. In addition, the owl's low-light vision is highly movement sensitive. In near-darkness humans may see areas of dim light and shadow but little detail. In the same conditions a Barn Owl has a brighter image and can see detail within the shadows. Anything small that starts to move is instantly noticed by the owl but is unseen by most humans. However, anything that keeps absolutely still (even a human at close quarters) is usually ignored by the owl. Amazingly, the Barn Owl's

dark-adapted eyes also work well in full sunlight. Barn Owls take little notice of artificial lights that keep still (road lighting, security lights etc.) and may even use this light as an aid to hunting. Sudden exposure to very bright

**Legs, toes and talons**

Barn Owls have remarkably long legs, toes and talons enabling them to catch prey at the base of deep vegetation. The talons are extremely sharp and prey is thought to be killed by foot clenching rather than a peck.

**Camouflage**

When viewed from above Barn Owls are quite well camouflaged, as the rough grassland over which they usually hunt is predominantly light brown for most of the year. The most plausible explanation for the Barn Owl's white underside is that it works as an anti-silhouette strategy. When viewed from below birds almost always appear as a dark silhouette. To counteract this, the best color to be is white.

## Eggs

## The Hunt

## Babies

## The Feast

## Parenting

## Adult Owls

## Digestion

Name: _____

# Owls of Texas

Use www.owlpages.com to find the information below on the three owls found in Texas that you have chosen to research.

**Owl Name**: _____

Drawing

Description: _____
_____
_____

Size: _____

Hunting Style: _____
_____

Food: _____
_____

Habitat: _____
_____

**Owl Name**: _____

Drawing

Description: _____
_____
_____

Size: _____

Hunting Style: _____
_____

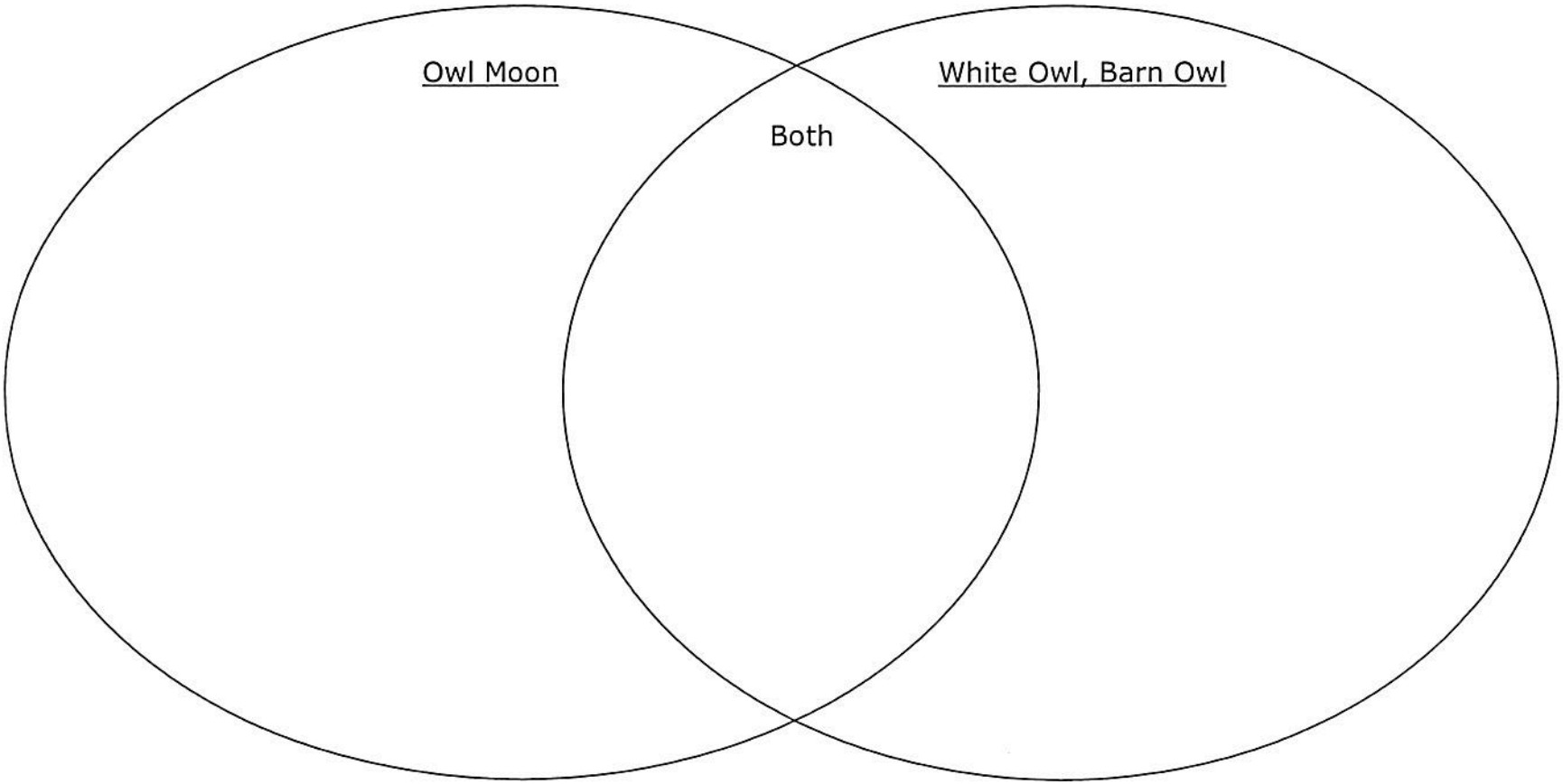
Food: _____
_____

Habitat: _____
_____

Name: _____

# Owl Literature

Read both Owl Moon and White Owl, Barn Owl carefully. Pay attention to the story details, the words the author chose, the illustrations, and the information about the owls. Complete Venn diagram below comparing & contrasting the two books. Make sure you give detailed answers. Answer the questions at the bottom of the page in complete sentences.




What did you learn about owls from these two books? _____

_____

Which book did you like best? Why? _____

_____

Name: _____

# Owl Pellets

Answer the questions below about owl pellets in complete sentences and in your own words. Then, take a piece of drawing paper and draw a detailed picture illustrating how owl pellets are formed. Color it and write a short paragraph explaining what is happening in the illustration.

1. What is an owl pellet?

2. Why do owls make pellets?

3. How are the owl pellets made?

4. How are the owl pellets released from the owl's body?

5. What types of animal's remains can be found in owl pellets?

6. How long does it take an owl to make a pellet after it has eaten?

7. Where can you find owl pellets?

8. What can we about owls learn by studying owl pellets?

9. What does an owl pellet look like?

10. Draw a picture of an owl pellet.

Complete the comic strip below depicting an owl life cycle from egg to adult using the information from your outline. Include dialogue that will help explain what is happening.

Comic Strip

Title: _____