

# WILDLIFE ECOLOGY



## DESCRIPTION:

Let's examine the interactions between predators, prey, and the habitats they live in. (Optional owl pellet study).

## PROGRAM TYPE:

Classroom/Field Trip; Year-round

## COST:

FREE to Lorain County schools - \$75 for offsite programs to out-of-county schools.  
\*Teachers will be required to purchase their own owl pellets for students.

## KEY CONCEPTS:

ecology, predator, prey, food chain, habitat

## GRADE LEVELS:

3-5

## PROGRAM LENGTH:

45 minutes – 1 hour

## BENCHMARKS AND INDICATORS:

### Grades 3-5

#### Life Sciences

**Benchmark A: Differentiate between the life cycles of different plants and animals.**

**Grade Four:** *Diversity and Interdependence of Life*

5. Describe how organisms interact with one another in various ways.

**Benchmark B: Analyze plant and animal structures and functions needed for survival and describe the flow of energy through a system that all organisms use to survive.**

**Grade Three:** *Diversity and Interdependence of Life*

2. Relate animal structures to their specific survival functions.

3. Classify animals according to their characteristics.

**Grade Five:** *Diversity and Interdependence of Life*

3. Trace the organization of simple food chains and food webs.

**Benchmark C: Compare changes in an organism's ecosystem/habitat that affect its survival.**

**Grade Three:** *Diversity and Interdependence of Life*

6. Describe how changes in an organism's habitat are sometimes beneficial and sometimes harmful.

**Grade Five:** *Diversity and Interdependence of Life*

4. Summarize that organisms can survive only in ecosystems in which their needs can be met

5. Support how an organism's patterns of behavior are related to the nature of that organism's ecosystem, including the kinds and numbers of other organisms present, the availability of food and resources, and the changing physical characteristics of the ecosystem.

6. Analyze how all organisms, including humans, cause changes in their ecosystems and how these changes can be beneficial, neutral or detrimental.