

OUTSTANDING OWLS

Dear Teachers,

When the Metroparks Mobile Learning Center visits your school, your students will have fun learning about some of Michigan's outstanding owls. Below is an outline of the activities your students will be engaged in during the "Outstanding Owls" program. A pre-visit activity is provided to prepare your students for the information we will cover.

School-visit Outline:

- Read Owl Babies by Martin Waddell and Patrick Benson
- Sing wide-eyed owl song
- Puppet show
- Discuss owl eyes, have volunteer demonstrate
- Discuss owl beak and show skull
- Discuss owl ears and hearing
- Show and discuss talons
- What would an owl eat game
- Show owl pellet
- Bring around owl wing
- Imitate owl calls
- Wrap-up: Sing wide-eyed owl song again

School-visit Song:

There's a wide-eyed owl (encircle eye with hands)
With a pointed nose (use pointer finger to make a curved beak)
Two pointed ears (both pointer fingers on top of head)
And claws for toes (curve fingers like claws)
He lives high in a tree (point up)
And when he looks at you (point to someone)
He flaps his wings (flap arms)
And says whoo whoo whoo
He's an owl, whoo, whoo, whoo
He's an owl, whoo, whoo, whoo
He sits high in a tree and he's looking on down at you
And you and you and you

Whoo whoo is this?

Instructions: Some of the things that make owls different from other kinds of birds are their big eyes, curved beak and sharp claws or talons. Hawks and eagles also have these some of these features, however owls tend to have bigger eyes.

Print off and hold up these pictures of different birds and have students say "owl" or "not an owl." Turn this into more of a game by flipping through the pictures quickly and have them decide as quickly as possible. This activity is intended to reinforce that owls are different from other birds and introduce the idea that there are different kinds of owls. You can also ask students what differences they see in the pictures of the owls versus other birds.

