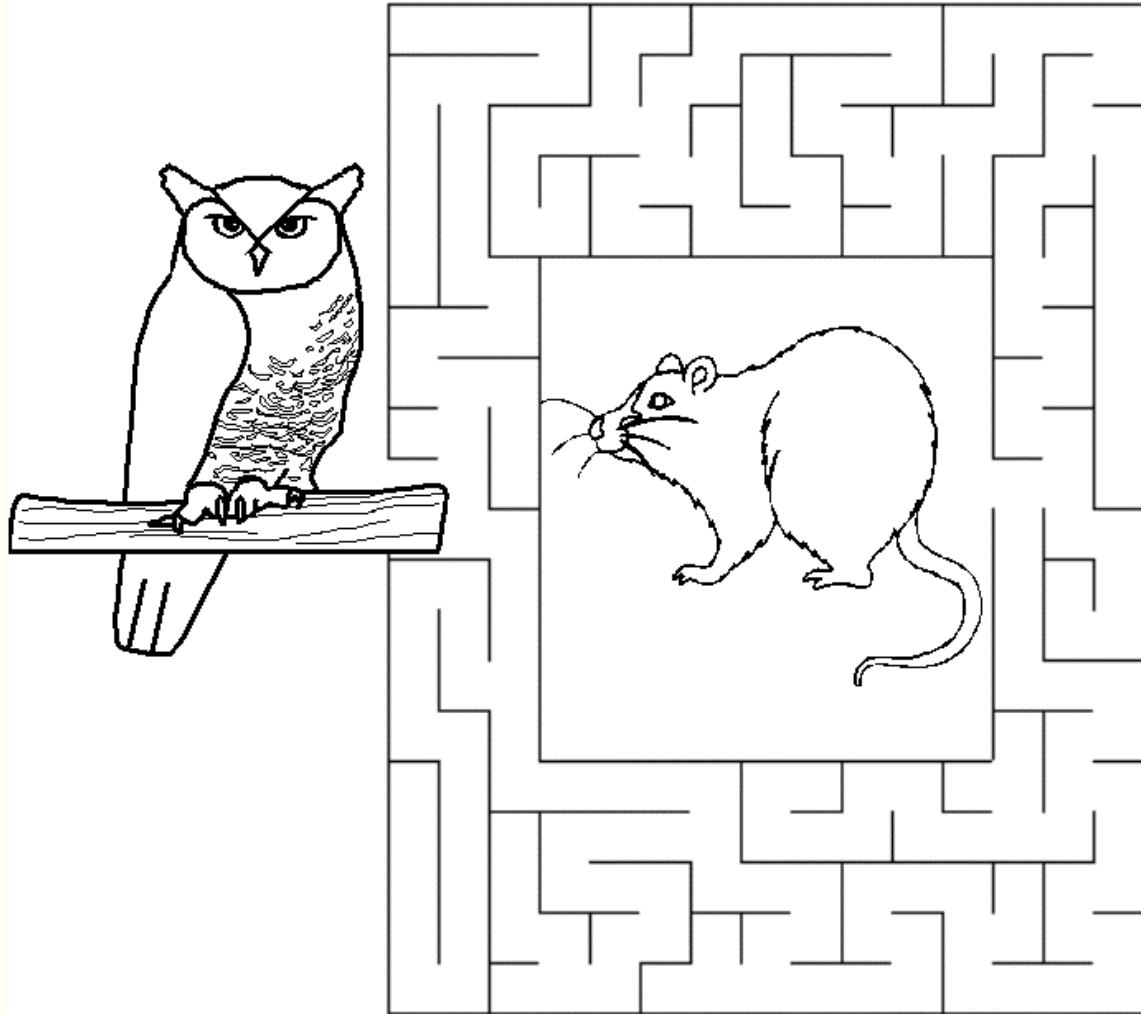




## Birds of Prey Activity Sheet

Grades K-2:

Bobbi the great horned owl loves to eat rats! Can you help her find her supper?



Owls can hear really well and they're very good at being silent too. Challenge a family member to see WHOO can be the best owl. One person will be the "Listening" owl by cupping their hands behind their ears to help them hear like an owl. The other person(s) will be the "Sneaking" owl by quietly flapping their wings as they move to avoid the Listening owl. Owls don't touch trees with their wings as they move through the forest, so be careful! Take turns Listening and Sneaking!

WHO's feet are whose? Take a look at the two bird feet below. Use words to describe each foot to a parent or sibling. Which foot belongs to the HAWK and which foot belongs to the OWL?



Grades 3-5:

In the Buffalo Zoo's video featuring Bobbi, the great horned owl, and Dexter, the Harris's hawk, we learned about how they use their feathers to help them fly. Did you know that all birds have different types of feathers on their bodies that do different things? Flight feathers are found on the wings and are used to push the air to lift the bird up for flight. Downy feathers are found close to the birds' body and give them their body shape and stay warm. Take some time to learn more about feathers with the [Feather Atlas](#) and the website [All About Feathers](#).

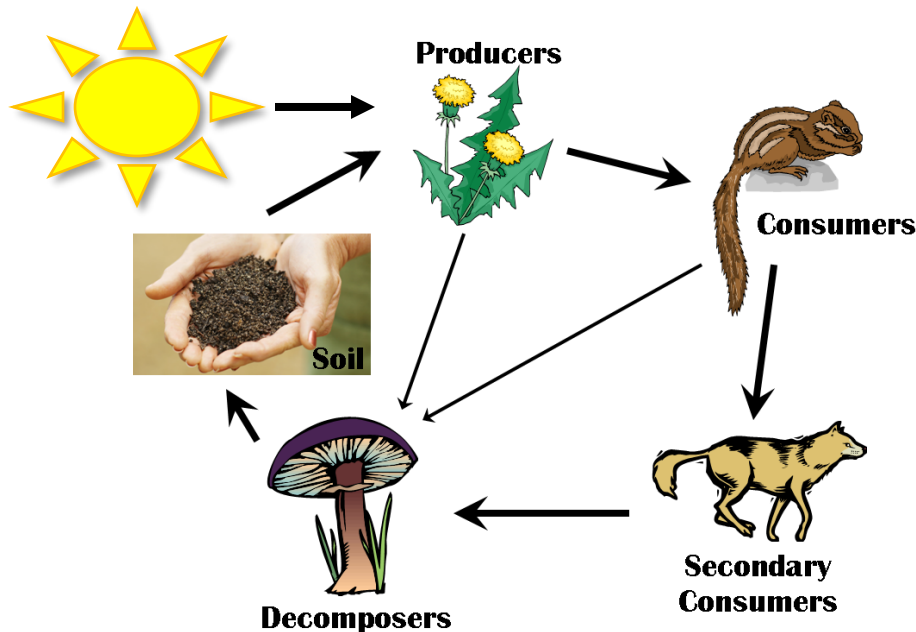
Then, do this activity:

Take a sheet of paper and cut it in half. Now cut each half in half so that you have 4 pieces of paper of equal size, these will be your feathers. Color each feather however you'd like then set one aside and leave it whole. With the other three feathers, make cuts so that they resemble the barbs of feathers. You can make your cuts long or short, wide or skinny. Here are two examples:



Now, flap each of your 4 "feathers" and decide which feather would be the best flight feather and which would be better for warmth. Use what you learned about feathers to find uses for all 4 feathers!

Hawks and owls are birds of prey, which means that they hunt for their food! Harris's hawks typically live in desert habitats, while great horned owls usually live near forests. Look up more information about what plants and other animals live in their habitats. Then draw and label a **FOOD WEB** for each bird. Remember, the arrows follow the flow of energy from one organism to another. Here is a simple food web as an example:



Grades 6-8:

There are hundreds of birding guide books that use illustrations to help people identify the species that they are looking at. There is even a Guild of Natural Science Illustrators who draw these and other images to help clarify scientific ideas for others to understand. These hand-drawn images often include labels of unique colors or features that differentiate one species from another. It is easy to draw birds when you follow a step-by-step lesson! Try drawing the [great horned owl](#) and [Harris's hawk](#) by clicking each one to go to a tutorial. Then, visit [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org) to learn more about each bird and what characteristics separate them from other birds that look like them. Label their body parts and defining features.

A startling report was published in 2019 which stated that nearly 3 billion birds have perished since 1970. Without knowing anything else, think about how that statement makes you feel. What questions do you have about that statement? Write down your feelings and questions on a sheet of paper. Then learn more by visiting <https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/bring-birds-back/>. Were any of your questions answered? Do you have additional questions? What information on the website made you feel helpless? What information gave you hope? How can you do your part to help bring birds back?

Birds of prey, like owls and hawks, need to have the right beak for the job. Beak shape allows birds to specialize in eating particular foods or having a more generalized diet. Gather some household items listed below. For each tool, make a prediction about what food it could be used to obtain and what type of bird would have a beak like it. Then, do some research and find out if your predictions were correct. Parents, answers and additional tools listed at the end.

Tool	Food item	Which bird	Correct answer
<b>Eyedropper</b>			
<b>Long tongs</b>			
<b>Knife and fork</b>			
<b>Blunt-nose pliers</b>			
<b>Strainer</b>			
<b>Tweezers</b>			

Look at the pictures of a macaw, toucan, and pelican. Do these unique beaks resemble any of the tools you've already used? How are these beaks specialized for the way these birds eat?



*Answers:*

*1. eyedropper – nectar, hummingbird, 2. long tongs – large aquatic prey, herons and egrets, 3. plastic knife and fork – meat, birds of prey (raptors), 4. chopsticks – prey in sand, shorebird, 5. hammer and nail – grubs, woodpeckers, 6. nutcracker or blunt-nose pliers – seed eaters, parrots and finches 7. envelope – aerial insectivore, swifts and swallows 8. strainer – aquatic plants, Flamingos and some ducks, and 9. tweezers or forceps – insects, warblers and thrushes.*