**OWL PELLET LAB**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­­** **Period: \_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**STEP 1:** Describe the outside of the pellet. Draw a picture in the box. Write words on the lines.

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**STEP 2:** Find a soft spot on the pellet. Slowly and cautiously open the pellet at its soft spot. Be careful not to break any bones.

**STEP 3:** Use the wooden probes, tweezers and your fingers to help you further break apart the pellet. Proceed slowly and with caution to ensure you do not break and bones.

**STEP 4:** Clean fur and debris off the bones. Match all bones to the bones chart.

**STEP 5:** Reassemble all of the skeletons configured as they would be assembled in a living animal. Identify the names of the owl’s **prey** and list them on the lines below. Circle the relative size of the prey.

**Prey #1:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **large OR small**

**Prey #2:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **large OR small**

**Prey #3:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **large OR small**

**Prey #4:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **large OR small**

**Prey #5:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **large OR small**

**Prey #6:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **large OR small**

**STEP 6:** Choose the most complete skeleton and draw the bones configured as they would be assembled in a living animal. Be sure to draw ***all*** of the individual bones that you found.

**STEP 7:** In the space below, write the name of the **prey** drawn above and describe what you used to determine which type of animal the bones came from. Describe any interesting findings or things you noticed about the bones.

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**STEP 8:** In the space below, draw a **food web** based on the preys you found in the pellet.

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN COMPLETE SENTENCES!!!!**

**1)** Describe what happens to the **energy** as it goes up the owl’s **food web**.

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**2)** Describe some of the characteristics of owls which make them good **predators**.

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**3)** Explain **mutualism** and how the owl has this type of relationship in its environment.

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**4)** Explain **commensalism** and how the owl has this type of relationship in its environment.

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**5)** Explain **niche** and how the owl has this type of relationship in its environment.

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