Mass Audubon
Protecting the Nature of Massachusetts

School Program Name:	Owl and Mouse
Name of Sanctuary:	Habitat Education Center & Wildlife Sanctuary
Grade Level:	3-5
Location Options:	At your school
Time:	1 hour
For more info:	mmiller@massaudubon.org or 617-489-5050 ext 208

Program Description

How are these animals connected? How are plants important to both?

Explore connections between organisms within a habitat with this interactive program about owls and mice. Whole group introduction focuses students on the challenges animals face in the wild, examine specimen skins and wings. Review organism's basic needs. At stations -observe live mice; discuss their needs and where they might live. Students make a mouse out of model magic clay to take home. At station #2, students look closely at an owl mount, discuss adaptations, and dissect an owl pellet.

Can be adjusted to be appropriate for grades K-2

Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks

Framework:	Science and Technology
Strand:	Life Science
Topic:	Characteristics of Plants and Animals

Learning Standards

3-5 Life Science #1:	Classify plants and animals according to the physical characteristics that they share.
3-5 Life Science #3:	Recognize that plants and animals go through predictable life cycles that include birth, growth, development, reproduction, and death.

Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks

Framework:	Science and Technology
Strand:	Life Science
Topic:	Adaptations of Living Things

Learning Standards

3-5 Life Science #7:	Give examples of how changes in the environment (drought, cold) have caused some plants and animals to die or move to new locations (migration).

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Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks

Framework: Science and Technology
Strand: Life Science
Topic: Energy and Living Things

Learning Standards

3-5 Life Science #11: Describe how energy derived from the sun is used by plants to produce sugars (photosynthesis) and is transferred within a food chain from producers (plants) to consumers to decomposers.

Lesson Objectives

What will students know and be able to do? These objectives must be observable and measurable.

Students will know and be able to:

Name three physical attributes of owls and mice

Identify connections between owls, mice and some plants

Know of one adaptation of each animal (owl and mouse)

Vocabulary

Food web
Habitat
Mammal
Predator
Prey
Regurgitate
Shelter
Talons
Basic needs
Season

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Assessments

How will you know that the students have met the standards?

Students will be able to define terms mammal, adaptation, predator, basic needs.

Students will be able to describe the relationship between plants, mice and owls.

Summarizer

How will the Mass Audubon Educator close the lesson to see if students met the objectives?

At the conclusion ask students:

What is one new thing you know about predators and prey?

What is one thing that connects plants to mice?

What is one thing that connects plants to owls?

Does season/weather matter?

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Mass Audubon School Programs

At Mass Audubon we strive to create learning experiences that are enriching, innovative, meaningful, and engaging. All our school programs are aligned with Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Our network of wildlife sanctuaries and nature centers located in urban, suburban, and rural communities around the state enable us to have strong relationships with local schools.

Our Education Foundations

- Place-based education is an educational philosophy that connects learning to what is local for an individual. We help build conservation communities, working with students and teachers in cities and towns to develop place-based environmental education that is linked directly to their home community.
- Inquiry-based learning is focused on teamwork, being learner-centered, questioning ourselves and the world around us, providing a more focused, time-intensive exploration, promoting lifelong learning, communication, and learning as fun.
- We are fully committed to creating a positive and supportive environment for all learners.
- We strive to be culturally sensitive, recognizing and embracing cultural differences.

Differentiated Instruction

- We strive to create a positive learning environment that is inclusive, supportive to all learners, and sensitive to cultural diversity.
- Outdoor classroom experiences are structured to meet the needs of the particular learners.
- Students work in small groups using hands-on materials.
- A variety of educational media are used, including colorful illustrations.
- With advance notice, efforts will be made to accommodate all learning styles and physical needs.

Notes

- Nature exploration is dependent upon the weather and other conditions. A class might observe different wildlife than they expected to see. An outdoor lesson can sometimes provide unexpected, but enriching teachable moments on a natural history topic that was not planned.
- Mass Audubon nature centers each have a unique landscape and will customize programs to work best at their particular site.
- Our lessons can be adapted to incorporate a classroom teacher's needs.