

## PINE CONE OWLS

Flagellate plants have existed on our planet for a long time (~300 million years) and include approximately 30,000 species of bryophytes, lycophytes, ferns, and gymnosperms. These plants offer some important clues on how plants evolve and adapt. There are several ways to classify flagellate plants based on their genetic and morphological traits but one of their most unique features is the absence of flowers.

This activity was developed as an informal learning experience for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students who participated in an optional afterschool enrichment activity offered by the school.

### GRADE LEVEL

- Elementary (K-2)

\*You can find additional activities for this and other age groups on [GoFlag Voyager](#).

### DURATION

- 45-60 minutes

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Discuss the importance of pines to humankind
- Analyze pine cone structure and function
- Describe the common species of owls in the area

### CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS

- Biology (plant reproductive strategies, owls)
- Art (crafting s pine cone owl)

### INTRODUCTION

- Ask the kids a week in advance to bring a pine cone if they have one
- If possible, have the children find a pine tree on school campus
- Ask children to explain how they found the tree. What parts of the tree called their attention or were they looking for?

- Show different parts of a pine tree to the children: bark, leaves, and cone
- Show the kids a pine cone with seeds. Throw a seed and get it to fly.
- Ask the children if they know what these things are and where they come from
- Discuss how pine trees are different from mosses and ferns (discussed in previous activities).
- Pines are very important trees (habitats for many animals, what animals might live in a pine tree?)
- Video of owl in a pine tree
- Use this as a transition for the owl craft activity.

## OWL CRAFTING ACTIVITY

- Play sounds of native owls
- Show a model of a snow owl (native owls, native species: barred owl, barn owl)
- Give a pine cone to each child
- Provide containers with different sizes of googly eyes, felt, and cotton
- Ask children to create their own unique snow owl to take home

## REFLECTION

Ask the children what to name the most important part of a pine tree and why they selected it.

## MATERIALS

- Pinecones
- Pine bark
- Pine leaves
- White and beige felt and a tiny bit of orange one too
- Cotton balls / cotton
- Googly eyes
- Glue
- Scissors
- Link to model: <https://www.easypeasyandfun.com/pinecone-winter-owls-craft/>

**Related Images**



**Costs:** varies