

Curious Little Owls - Learning Pack

This pack supports a hands-on exhibition based on the picture book **Wow! Said the Owl** by **Tim Hopgood**.

The story follows a curious little owl who stays up all day to discover **a world bursting with colour**.

Activities in this pack are designed to help **Early Years learners explore** the story more.

Each sheet provides activity suggestions and top tips. **There are six different themes to explore!**

1. **Get Ready**
2. **Get Creative**
3. **Get Musical**
4. **Get Active**
5. **Get Puzzling**
6. **Get Outside**

About Young Art Explorers Association

Based in Yorkshire, we work with emerging and established artists to bring playful, sensory, high-quality and sustainable art exhibitions to a family audience.

We hope you enjoy the activities and please share your WOW moments with us.

Don't forget to visit the exhibition!

See you soon.



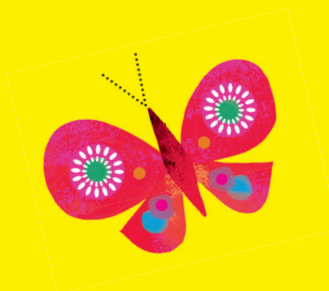
This is the Young Art Explorers logo. Wherever you see it you'll find lots of fab fun things to see and do.



@ArtExplor1



artexplor1



Explore more

You can find the story read online via YouTube. **Why not record and upload your own version!**

Copies of the book can be bought easily via all online bookshops.

What to know more about the author?

www.timhopgood.com/about

There are many books which explore the world of colour and little owls. **These are a few you might like to try:**

1. **Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?** by Eric Carle
2. **The Mixed Up Chameleon** by Eric Carle
3. **Owl Babies** by Martin Waddell and Patrick Benson
4. **The Rainbow Fish** by Marcus Pfister
5. **My Many Colored Days** by Dr. Seuss
6. **Elmer** by David McKee

Here are some useful links to activities & resources:

Colouring sheets designed by Tim Hopgood.

www.houseofhopgood.com/pages/free

Watch a trailer for Little Angel Theatre's production of Wow! Said The Owl **www.youtube.com/watch?v=wrqtoQc-3y4**

What is your favourite WOW! illustration? Watch this short book review clip. Why not record your own?

www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4WdhquxfMM 4/30/2019

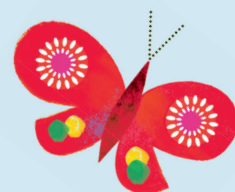
Learn about the amazing lives of owls on the RSPB website.

www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/owl-family/

There are lots of owl and craft colour downloads.

This is one of our favourites:

www.barnowltrust.org.uk/owl-facts-for-kids/owl-crafts/



Get ready

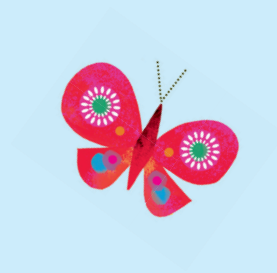
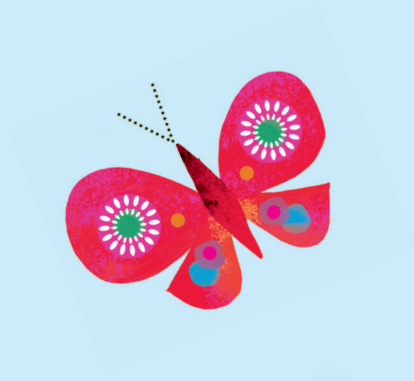
Session introduction activities:

Areas of Learning

- ✿ Communication and language
- ✿ Personal, social and emotional development
- ✿ Understanding the world

Before reading Wow! Said the Owl begin a group discussion.
These are some examples to get you started.

1. What other animals sleep during the day and are up at night?
2. What can we see in the sky during the night?
3. What can we see in the sky during the day?
4. How do different colours make us feel?
5. Talking about bedtime routines
6. Talking about favourite colours
7. Naming colours we can see
8. What colours are we wearing?
9. What makes us feel 'Wow'?
10. What is the weather like today?
11. What noise does an Owl make?
12. Talking about seasons



Get Creative

Arty and crafty activities:

Areas of Learning

- ✿ Communication and language
- ✿ Personal, social and emotional development
- ✿ Understanding the world

After you have read *Wow! Said the Owl* have a go at some of these hands-on crafts.

- 1. Tissue paper rainbow mobile** Use strips of tissue paper in each colour of the rainbow, glue to half a paper plate (your cloud). Decorate your cloud with cotton wool and attach a ribbon hanger.
- 2. Fingerprint owl** Download and print an outline of an owl (or draw your own). Mix different shades of brown and white paint. Lightly use fingertips to print inside the outline.
- 3. Giant flowers** Use paper plates as the centre of your flower. Make petals using crepe paper, tissue paper or coloured cellophane. Make a garden of your flowers!
- 4. Night time collage** Use black paper as a background.
- 5. Colourful jelly** Follow packet instructions to mix the jelly. Pour into small moulds and leave to set. Add more colour layers and eat a rainbow!
- 6. Wooden spoon owl** Paint the back of a wooden spoon in brown paint and leave to dry. Decorate the owl's tummy with dashes of white paint. Stick on googly eyes and orange triangles of card for his beak and ears.
- 7. Colour mixing** Look at the colour chart at the back of the book. Mix paints on a paper plate or coloured playdough to make your own version.
- 8. Paper bag owl**
Use a paper bag to create your own mini owl puppet.



Get Creative

WOW! Make a beautiful butterfly!

Areas of Learning

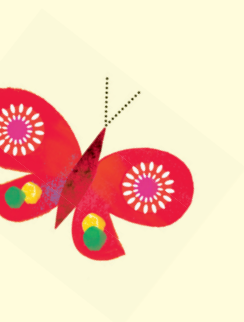
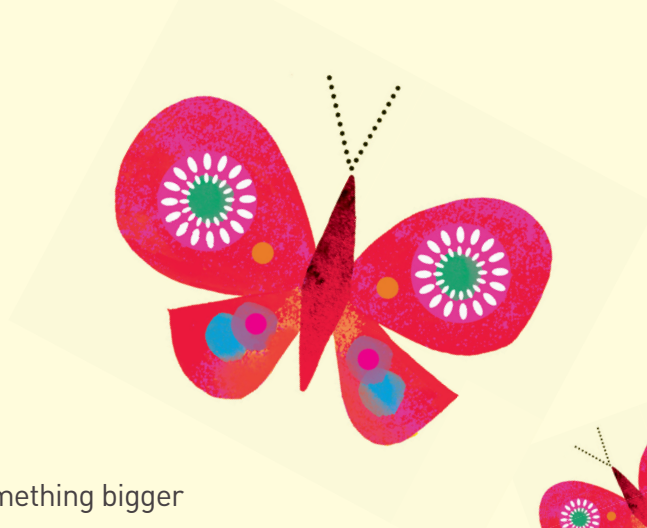
- ✿ Communication and language
- ✿ Personal, social and emotional development
- ✿ Understanding the world

What you will need:

1. **A cardboard box** a pizza box or something bigger
2. **Paint and paint brushes**
3. **Glue**
4. **Doilies**
5. **Wax crayons**
6. **Sticky dots**
7. **Scissors**

Steps:

1. Draw a butterfly outline onto the card and cut out.
2. Use doilies, paint, crayons and stickers to bring your butterfly to life.
3. Find a place for your butterfly to soak up the sunshine!



Get Musical

Sound and music activities

Areas of Learning

- ✿ Communication and language
- ✿ Physical development
- ✿ Personal, social and emotional development
- ✿ Understanding the world
- ✿ Expressive arts and design

After you have read *Wow! Said the Owl* have a go at some of these hands-on activities.

1. What rhymes do you know about the night sky?

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

2. What songs do you know about colours?

I can sing a Rainbow, Baa Baa Black Sheep, Five Green and Speckled Frogs, Five Red Ladybirds

3. Action songs: The colour I see

Red, red is the colour I see. If you're wearing red then show it to me. Stand up, turn around, touch the ground. Show me your red then sit back down. Repeat, naming a different colour each time.

4. Action song: Hokey Pokey rainbow

Offer children ribbons or paper streamers in a variety of colours. Invite them to hold one streamer in each hand (their choice of colours from those offered). Stand in a circle to sing. You put blue in, You take blue out You put blue in, And you shake it all about. You do the hokey pokey and you turn yourself around, And that's what it's all about. Repeat, naming a different colour each time.

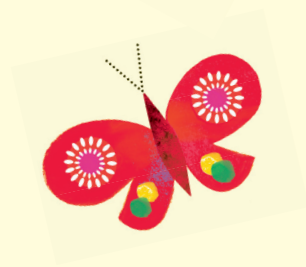
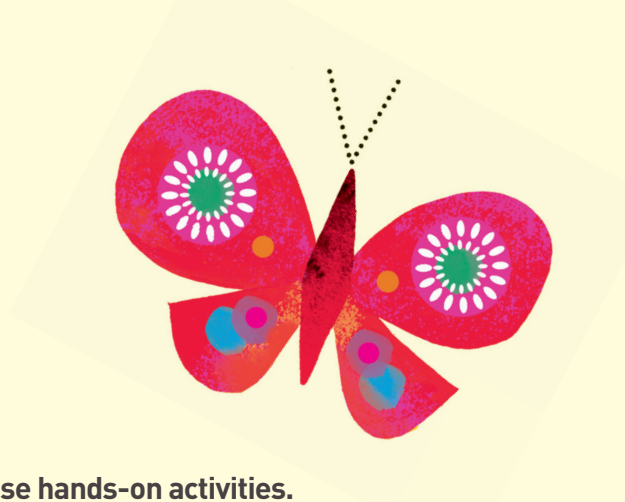
5. Sleepy songs

Wind down to a selection of lullabies.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wm15rvkifPc

6. Play a rainbow

Use musical instruments such as shakers, drums and whistles. How do different colours make you feel? Encourage children to try different instruments to find colour 'sounds' that match.



Get Musical

WOW! Make a musical rainmaker!

What you will need:

1. Yellow postal tube with 2 lids

Approximately 33 cm long

2. Piece of kitchen foil

Approximately 20 cm long

3. A range of geometric colourful stickers

Rectangles, circles, triangles

4. A large handful red or green lentils

25–30 g small red and larger green make different noises

Steps:

1. Decorate tube with colourful stickers.
2. Squeeze foil into sausage-y shape and put inside tube.
3. Make sure one end is in place, and using a funnel pour lentils inside.
4. Put other lid on.
5. Shake gently.



Why not have a go at making other colourful musical instruments too!



Get Active

Moving around activities

Areas of Learning

- ✿ Communication and language
- ✿ Physical development
- ✿ Personal, social and emotional development
- ✿ Understanding the world

After sitting quietly to read Wow! Said the Owl time to get up and move about!

Try these activities to get things moving.

1. Popping a rainbow alphabet game Write alphabet letters on pieces of card. Tape the coloured sheets together and to the floor to make a rainbow path. Cover over the path with a roll of bubble wrap and secure it in place using painter's tape.

2. Glow in the dark disco Use glow in the dark paint to make headbands and wristbands. Dim the lights and play some tunes! You could use a mirror ball too.

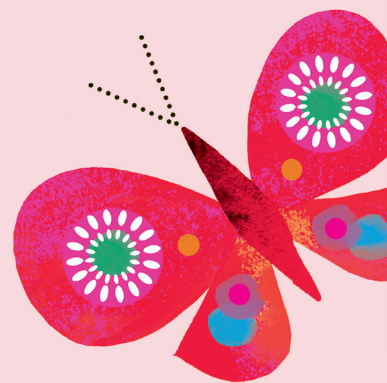
3. Colour catch you out! Play a colour version of tag. Split children into groups of different colours. Hold up a coloured card to indicate which team is 'it'.

4. Coloured owl treasure hunt Download and print 10 owl shapes (or design your own). Cut them out and colour in red, blue, green and yellow. Hide the paper owls. How many can children find of each colour?

5. WOW! Twister Adapt the game of Twister to make your own WOW! version using the colour wheel at the end of the book.

6. Musical clouds Find some floaty music and use cushions as clouds. While the music is playing take one cushion at a time away. When the music stops each child needs to find a cloud to sit on.

7. Rainbow obstacle course Use coloured hoops and bean bags to make a hop, skip and jump obstacle course.

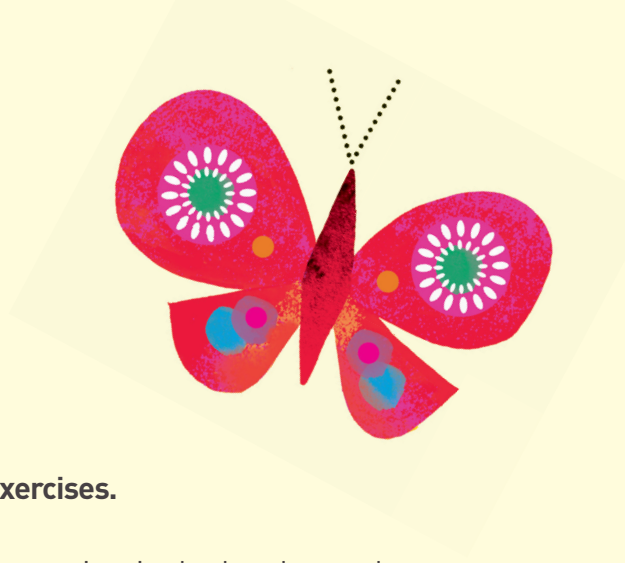


Get Puzzling

Literacy and numeracy activities

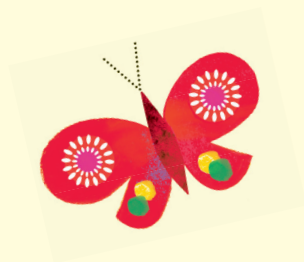
Areas of Learning

- ✿ Communication and language
- ✿ Personal, social and emotional development
- ✿ Understanding the world
- ✿ Literacy
- ✿ Mathematics



After reading **Wow! Said the Owl** have a go at some brain gym exercises.

- 1. Colour by number** Create your own or download nature inspired colour by number sheets. You could make your own giant group colouring sheet and display on the wall.
- 2. WOW! picture & word lotto** Design a lotto board with words and pictures from the book including owl, sun, rain and leaf. Add colours too.
- 3. Colour sorting** Find different pictures of objects / animals and sort them according to the colours that you can see.
- 4. Owl number bunting** Download or design your own owl shaped bunting with numbers 1 - 10. You could use these as flash cards too.
- 5. Colour words** Think of different words to describe colours, using ideas from the story (e.g. warm and wonderful pink).
- 6. Language of colours** Can you find out the names of colours in different languages?
- 7. Puppet play** Create puppets based on the book such as an owl, tree, sun, moon and stars. Set up a puppet theatre and retell the story through play.
- 8. Puzzles** Use illustrations from the book to create simple word and picture jigsaws.



Get Outside

Nature activities

Areas of Learning

- ✿ Communication and language
- ✿ Personal, social and emotional development
- ✿ Understanding the world
- ✿ Literacy
- ✿ Mathematics
- ✿ Expressive arts and design
- ✿ Physical development

After reading **Wow! Said the Owl whatever the weather** get your shoes on and discover the world outside.

1. Make a colourful nature table Take wicker baskets, mini buckets or plastic jars outside and collect samples of seeds, leaves, feathers and flowers (depending on the season). Display these together on a table in colour groups or use them to make nature pictures.

2. Nature spotting

Use binoculars and magnifying glasses to spot animals big and small.

3. Eye spy

Use the internet to print out images of animals and plants. Give pictures scores. How many can you spot outside?

4. Footprints

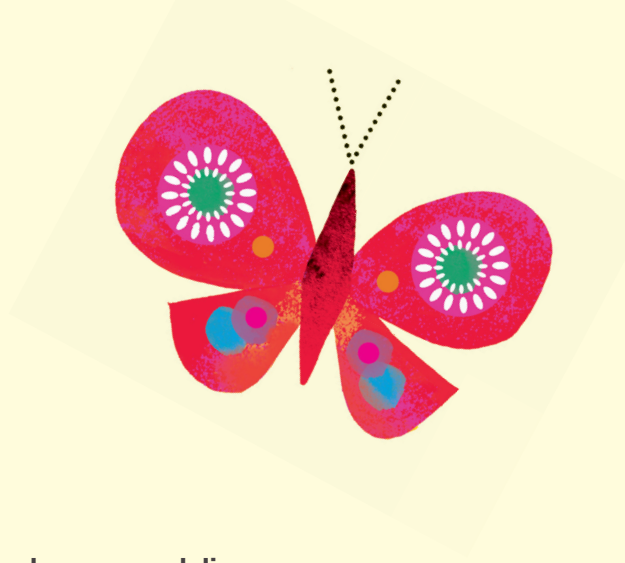
Find a nice muddy patch. Hop like an owl and make patterns with your feet.

5. Nature prints

Use playdough to make special prints of the tree bark you find.

6. Weather station

Make a picture log to record the daily weather.
Make a rain collector to measure rainfall.
Make a windmill to show how windy it is.



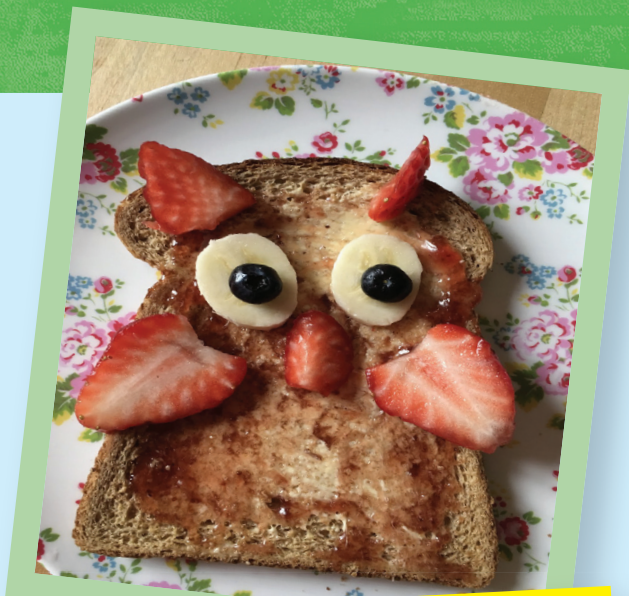
Get Outside

7. Visit a bird sanctuary

Find out where the nearest bird sanctuary is near you.
www.britishbirdlovers.co.uk/uk-bird-sanctuaries
Or visit the Woodland Trust for more outdoor visit ideas.
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

8. Owl toast

Hungry after all that exploring outside? Make some owl toast. Use yummy fruits to decorate!



9. WOW! Leaf printing

Find some interesting shaped leaves outside.
Mix different shades of paint and use the leaves to print.
You could cut these out and make a tree display or hang them using ribbons.

