Hey, Kids! Owls are amazing!

National Wildlife Federation has teamed up with Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga’Hoole to bring you some fun activities.

Try them out and learn about the owls where you live.

You can help owls and other wildlife with Ranger Rick at www.nwf.org/kids.

To adopt an owl and find more owl fun go to www.nwf.org/owls.

Ask your parents and teachers to check out the website too. They’ll find a Guide for Educators just for them.

About the film:

Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga’Hoole is an animated film from director Zack Snyder based on the beloved books by Kathryn Lasky. It follows Soren, a young owl who loves to hear his father’s epic stories of the Guardians of Ga’Hoole. Soren, along with some unlikely friends, soon embarks on his own daring adventure to find his heroes and save all of owlkind.

Warner Bros. Pictures is presenting the film in association with Village Roadshow Pictures.

About National Wildlife Federation

National Wildlife Federation inspires Americans to protect wildlife for our children’s future. For more than 70 years, NWF has been connecting people of all ages with nature through award-winning education programs and resources, including the children’s magazines Wild Animal Baby®, Your Big Backyard®, and Ranger Rick®.

National Wildlife Federation is proud to be an education partner for Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga’Hoole. National Wildlife Federation is asking children and their parents to help save “owlkind” and play an important role in wildlife conservation with symbolic adoptions of the species featured in the film. These adoptions help NWF in its efforts to protect and restore wildlife habitat, and to connect people to nature.
FUN THINGS TO DO

Go on an Owl Prowl

The story takes you on a journey into the world of owls.

• What kinds of owls live in your neighborhood? Check out a field guide to find out!
• Listen to owl calls at www.owling.com.
• Practice identifying the owls by their photos and sounds. Can you hoot like an owl?
• Ask a grownup to join you on a night-time walk and see whoooo’s calling! If you’re lucky enough to hear an owl, try calling back.
• Record your observations at Wildlife Watch (www.nwf.org/wildlifewatch) to help National Wildlife Federation keep track of wildlife.

Tips for Watching Wildlife

Do not disturb! Move slowly and quietly. Try to blend in with your surroundings. It’s much easier to see animals when they’re not hiding from you!

Look up, down, all around. If you don’t see anything at first, look closer. Peek under logs and rocks, beneath leaves, on trees, and into puddles or ponds.

Listen up! Close your eyes and listen to the sounds around you. What do you hear? Where is each sound coming from?

Watch for signs. Tracks, holes, nests, droppings, chewed leaves or twigs, and other clues that say, “wildlife was here!”
**FUN THINGS TO DO**

**GIVE A HOOT ABOUT HABITAT**

Habitat is the place where a plant or animal lives. Without habitat, living things can’t survive. With healthy habitat, they’ll thrive. For owls and other animals, habitat has four parts: food, water, cover, and places to raise young. Now that you know what it takes to provide habitat, go to www.nwf.org/habitat and design your own backyard or schoolyard habitat project.

All over the world, habitat for wildlife is shrinking as the human population grows. But here’s the good news: People are helping by bringing habitat back one yard, schoolyard, garden, or park at a time. You can also join in with these projects:

**HANDS-ON HABITAT PROJECTS**

**Start a garden.** Big or small, a plot of flowers and shrubs is a magnet for wildlife. Hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees drink the flowers’ sweet nectar. Birds and small mammals eat berries and seeds. Insects munch the leaves.

**Plant a tree.** Fruits, nuts, or seeds provide food. The sheltering branches offer places to hide or nest. On a hot day, you’ll appreciate the shade, too!

**Get wet.** Keep a birdbath or shallow saucer filled with clean water for drinking and bathing. Or help clean up a stream or build a pond.

**Pile it up.** Build a rock or brush pile. It’s like an apartment building for wildlife.

**Open a restaurant.** Hang up a bird feeder or pinecones filled with peanut butter and bird seed.

What can you do for habitat?

__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
FUN THINGS TO DO:

BUILD A BARN OWL BOX

A Place to Raise Young

Check online or in your library for nest box plans for Barn Owls like Soren or the species of owl that lives in your area! Ask a handy grown-up to help you build the box. For many species of owls finding a suitable cavity to nest in determines whether or not it can live in the area.

To make the nesting box safer and more suitable for owls, consider the following:

- Wood is the best building material. Avoid using metal as it gets too hot when exposed to the sun.
- Build the house for a kind of owl that lives in your area. You can find specific plans for all kinds of owls and other birds at http://www.birds.cornell.edu/nestinginfo/nestboxref/construct.
- Follow the directions for size, height of entrance hole, size of entrance hole, drainage for the bottom of the box, and ventilation.
- The roof should be slanted to shed water and there should be at least a two-inch overhang to protect the entrance hole.
- Place the box where there is no danger of cats other predators, or attach a galvanized tin cat-guard on the pole or tree.
- Put a hinge on the roof or otherwise make it easy to access the nest for cleaning after the birds are gone. Don’t disturb the nest while the birds are in it!
- Put an inch or so of wood shavings in the bottom for nesting material. (You can often get this material at any store that sells lumber.)
- Put the box at least 10’ off the ground – 15’ to 30’ is better. You can attach it to a tree or to a building.
**FUN THINGS TO DO**

**ADOPT AN OWL**

You can symbolically Adopt an Owl with the National Wildlife Federation at www.nwf.org/owls.

The animal adoption program helps National Wildlife Federation protect owls and their habitat. You can learn more fun facts about real owls. Most people do not realize that owls may live in their area.

Make it a community event and educate others about owls. You can even organize a fundraiser to pay for the adoption. Here are a few ways kids have raised funds to adopt an animal with NWF:

- Hold a used book raffle, sell hand made owl buttons or drawings of owls, make owl buttons, have a lemonade stand or bake sale, throw an owl-themed party and ask for donations instead of gifts, recycle cans, decorate a jar with information about the project to collect spare change, pledge to walk, run or bike for owls.

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**On Behalf of**

Legend of the Guardians
The Owls of Ga’Hoole

I __________________________ pledge to help the National Wildlife Federation’s to protect owls and other imperiled wildlife species across America.
FUN THINGS TO MAKE:

MAKE A MOBILE

Take flight with the owls of Ga’Hoole!

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Owls of Ga’Hoole cutouts (below)
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- String
- Clothes hanger

WHAT YOU DO:

1. Cut out the Owl shapes on the next few pages.
2. Punch a hole at the top of each shape.
3. Cut a length of string for each shape, thread it through the hole, and tie a knot.
4. Tie the other end of each string to the clothes hanger.
5. Hang up your mobile and watch Soren and friends take flight!

SOREN (Male Barn Owl)

Hero

Excellent flyer. Noble, courageous seeker of justice and natural leader.
GYLFIE (Female Elf Owl)
Soren's Loyal Best Friend
Lead navigator. Tiny, intelligent and resourceful.

DIGGER (Male Burrowing Owl)
Inquisitive Friend
Skilled tracker. Long-legged, quirky and hyperactive.

EGALANTINE (Female Barn Owl)
Younger Sister to Soren, Innocent Victim and strong survivor
Adorable, insightful and wise beyond her years.
TWILIGHT  (Male Great Grey Owl)
Strong, Loyal Ally
Storyteller and singer. Intimidating in size but with a huge heart.

THE BAND OF FRIENDS
FUN THINGS TO MAKE:

LET’S DRAW AN OWL!

WHAT YOU NEED:
• Paper • Pencils • Crayons or Markers

WHAT YOU DO:

1. 2. 3. 4.
FUN THINGS TO MAKE:

Owl Coloring Page

MATERIALS:
- Paper
- Crayons or Markers

WHAT YOU DO:
1. Print or copy the next page.
2. Use crayons or markers to decorate it.
FUN THINGS TO MAKE:

OWL IN A TREE

MATERIALS:
• toilet paper tube
• brown felt (about 8” x 8”)
• scrap of yellow construction paper
• feathers
• 2 googley eyes
• sheet of brown construction paper
• scissors
• glue
• tape (optional)

WHAT YOU DO:

For the owl:
1. Glue felt around the toilet paper tube. Cut wing shapes from felt and glue them onto the tube. Glue feathers where desired.
2. Cut out beak shape from yellow construction paper and glue in place. Glue on googley eyes.

For the tree:
1. In the center of a sheet of brown construction paper, cut an opening for your owl. Then glue or tape the brown construction paper to form a tube.
2. Place owl in the tree opening.
FUN THINGS TO MAKE:

WHOOOooooo’S HUNGRY?
This tasty owl snack will feed your hunger—and your imagination.

WHAT YOU NEED:
• English muffin
• peanut butter
• 2 slices of banana
• 2 raisins
• 6 Cheerios®
• slice of cheese

WHAT YOU DO:
1. Toast one half of an English muffin.
2. Spread peanut butter on the English muffin.
3. Use the banana slices and raisins to make eyes.
4. Place the Cheerios above the eyes to make a brow ridge.
5. Cut a triangle shape out of the cheese and place under the eyes to make a beak.

Makes one owl snack
**FUN THINGS TO MAKE:**

**WEAR AN OWL MASK**

**MATERIALS:**
- brown, white and yellow craft foam
- feathers
- elastic string
- craft glue
- owl mask pattern

**WHAT YOU DO:**

1. Cut out the owl mask patterns.

2. Use the owl mask patterns to draw the owl’s head and ear tufts on the brown craft foam, the eyes and beak on the yellow craft foam, and the neck ruffle on the white craft foam. Cut out the shapes.

3. Glue the eyes and beak onto the front of the head. Turn the head over and glue on the ear tufts and neck ruffle.

4. Decorate your mask with feathers.

5. Get an adult to help you poke small holes next to the eyes for the string. Thread the string through the holes and tie on each end.

Craft by Laura Blankenbaker
*Your Big Backyard*
OWL MASK PATTERNS

Beak

Head