

## Owls & Crows

**Materials:** Pylons, rope

**Procedure: (Awaken Enthusiasm)** This game combines trivia with tag. Divide the class into two groups and have them line up facing each other like in red-rover. The groups should be no more than 6 paces apart. Use the pylons to mark boundary lines on either side of the lawn/play area

1) Stand in the middle of the two groups but not between them, just off to the side. Once they are ready, start by **reviewing some basic bird ecology**. "What can you tell me about owls and crows? What do they eat? Did you know that owls and crows are enemies? Because owls are such efficient predators, crows will mob or chase owls out of their territory, any chance they get!"

2) **Then explain that one team will be the owls and the other team will be the crows.** Next, pick a safe zone for each team - roughly 10-15m behind each group. If there are no natural boundaries, pylons or ropes can be used.

3) Then explain that you are going to **test their knowledge by asking them true or false questions.** If the answer is true, the crows will chase the owls, as the owls attempt to escape to their safe zone. If it is false the owls will chase the crows to their safe zone. If an owl or crow is tagged or runs in the wrong direction and is tagged they **join the other team**. Start with a few practice rounds that don't involve running - just pointing with feet 'glued to the ground'

**Hints tips and tricks:** Owls and Crows is a great opportunity to be both serious and silly. I generally come up with questions off the top of my head, relating to whatever subject we are teaching, so questions will vary depending on age, knowledge level, and topics discussed.

**Ex:** Birds lay eggs. Mammals are warm-blooded. Amphibians are invertebrates. All birds are meat eaters. The largest known bird is Big Bird etc. Mix up the true and false questions and have fun. The game gets a group moving and thinking. If one team starts getting lopsided, I will ask more questions that will help the losing side.

