

Wow! It's Night-time Education Pack



How did Little Angel Theatre start?



John Wright, the founder of Little Angel Theatre, was born in South Africa in 1906. He travelled to England in 1935 and worked as an assistant stage manager for the Ballet Rambert while studying at the Central School of Art and Design. During this time he saw a puppet performance by Podrecca's Piccoli and became hooked. John made his very first puppet in 1938.

In 1961 John and his troupe found a derelict temperance hall in Islington and transformed it into a theatre, designed for the presentation of marionette shows. It opened on Saturday 24th November 1961. This was to be the first purpose built puppet theatre the country had seen for many years and the only one with a permanent long string marionette bridge constructed backstage. The bridge was designed for puppeteers to stand on while they manipulate long stringed puppets who perform on the stage below leaving the audience unable to see the puppeteers. The original bridge is used to this day. The theatre has a traditional 'proscenium arch' and seats 100 audience members.

John Wright died in 1991 but the work of the theatre continued apace with family, friends and supporters working tirelessly to continue in his footsteps to make sure John's legacy would delight generations to come.

“Over the next 30 years, the Little Angel team created and performed over 30 full-scale shows”

About *WOW! It's Night-time*

A Book about Nocturnal Animals by Tim Hopgood

WOW! It's Night-time is the sequel to the award winning picture book *WOW! Said the Owl* written and illustrated by Tim Hopgood.

It tells the story of a curious little owl who explores the forest when the sun goes down, meeting all of the other nocturnal creatures who live there.

The curious little owl is back, and this time she's ready to discover the wonders of night-time, from the big, bright moon to the bats in the sky and the foxes deep in the forest. But where are all the other owls? When the wind blows the leaves from her tree, you'll soon see...

Theatre Director Joy Haynes adapted Tim Hopgood's book for the stage and directed our production of *WOW! It's Night-time*.

The puppets were designed and made by Keith Frederick. Set and costumes were designed and made by Fiammetta Horvat and the music was composed by Dominic Sales.

The solo performer and puppeteer not only operates the animal puppets and shadow puppets, but sings and is responsible for all the amazing scene changes throughout the show!

Education resource pack by Sarah Schofield and Louisa Heads McCann

Production Photographs by Ellie Kurtz



All About Owls

- There are over 200 different owl species including the Barn Owl, Snowy Owl, Tawny Owl, Eagle Owl and Spotted Wood Owl!
- Owls live all over the world in countries including India, Sri Lanka, America, Australia, many countries in Asia and Europe.
- Owls are active at night
- A group of owls are called a 'parliament'
- Most owls hunt insects, small mammals (mice) or even other birds
- Some owl species hunt fish
- Some owls can see food from up to half a mile away
- Owls claws are called talons □ Owls have large eyes and a flat face
- Owls can turn their heads up to 270 degrees – that's almost all the way round!
- Owls are far sighted, meaning they can't see things close to their eyes clearly
- Barn owls are recognised by the heart shape of their heads
- Owls have tube shaped eyes, almost like binoculars. They cannot roll their eyes like



- They have two holes in the side of their head which acts as ears, one hole is higher than the other to help them hear more around them.
- Owls have 4 toes, one permanently facing back and two permanently facing forward allowing the last one to move between both directions to help balance on trees.
- The Smallest owl in the world is the Elf owl which is only 5 – 6 inches tall
- The largest owl in the world is the Great Grey owl which stands 32 inches tall.
- A baby Owl is called an Owlet!

About Tim Hopgood

Before he became an award winning children's book author and illustrator, Tim Hopgood was a graphic designer for twenty years. His first book was called *Our Big Blue Sofa*, and was published in 2006. But it wasn't until *WOW! Said the Owl* was published in 2009 that he finally became a full time author and illustrator. Before that, he used to earn extra money by working as a cleaner, a dishwasher in a restaurant and even sorting letters in a post office depot, all the while developing his ideas for new books!

Tim layers his illustrations by starting off drawing in pencil and then building up individual sections of colour like a collage. He likes his work to look like it was hand drawn but it is mainly done on a computer. Each of his books incorporates a different textured effect.

Have a look at *WOW! It's Night-time*– what textures can you see throughout the book?

Idea: why not create your own patterned and textured paper by making marks/scribbles and rubbings in different colours and media such as crayon, chalk, pencil and paint. Now use these papers to create a collage picture.

Songs and rhymes about night-time:

There are lots of songs and rhymes online about night-time – here is one of the most famous:

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

*Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are! Up
above the world so high, Like a
diamond in the sky.*

*Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are!*

Try making up your own night-time song or rhyme to the tune of a well known song or nursery rhyme.

Night-time Poem

Write some different aspects of night-time in a list down the side of a large sheet of paper. Now get your class to come up with some words about each thing on the list e.g.

The night sky is like a dark blue velvet blanket. **The stars** are like twinkly fairy lights on a Christmas tree. **The moon** is like the Cheshire Cat's smile, shining in the darkness.

Continue the same process with all the things on your list and add illustrations to make a beautiful nocturnal display!



Other Books that explore night-time:

There are a great many children's books that explore night-time – here are just a few that you might like to look at:

- *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown
- *Guess How Much I Love You* by Sam McBratney
- *One Night in the Zoo* by Judith Kerr
- *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak
- *Owl Babies* by Martin Waddell

Puppet Making—Owl Hand Puppets

You will need:

Coloured card or a cardboard tube (such as a kitchen roll tube)

2 Paper cake cases - plain or patterned

Coloured paper

White paper

Sticky tape, scissors and glue



- First, roll your coloured card into a tube and secure with sellotape (not necessary if using a cardboard tube). It should be just big enough to fit on your hand.
- At one end, fold the back of the tube inwards, and then push the front inwards – this should make the top of the tube into a shape like owl 'ears' – if necessary, secure this with tape.
- Now you can use the cake cases to make some feathers and wings (if you only have plain ones you can always colour them). Fold one case into quarters and cut out the middle section. Cut the remaining 'frills' into 4 pieces and glue onto the front of the owl starting at the bottom.
- Now use your second case to make wings. Fold in half and cut away a small slice – now cut the remainder in half to make two wings. Glue these onto the back of the owl so that they stick out at the sides. If you don't have cases, you can simply use coloured paper to make the feathers and wings.
- Finally, use white paper and yellow paper to make eyes and a beak for your owl!



Puppet Making - Owl Glove Puppet

You will need:

- **A paper bag with a flat base**
- **Coloured paper**
- **Colouring pens**
- **A glue stick**
- **Sticky tape**
- **Large round stickers (optional)**



How to make your puppet:

1. First have a look at your bag. When it is folded flat it should have a flap on one side which is the flat base folded over – this will be the face of your puppet – your hand will go in through the opening at the other end (normally the top of the bag, but in this case, we are using the bag upside down.) There are also flaps at the sides of the bag (this is where we will stick the wings later).
2. Cut out a triangle shape for the owl's face, and two wings from coloured paper. You could choose any colours you like – realistic owl colours, or bright colours. (Tip: To get two wings, fold your paper in half, draw the shape you want and then cut through the folded paper – you will get two wings the same)
3. Glue the triangle onto the 'face' part of the bag so that the long straight edge lines up with the top edge of the bag and the point is pointing downwards.
4. Use Stickers or circles of coloured paper to make some nice big eyes for your owl. You could experiment with layering one colour circle on top of another, and use pens to add patterns around the edge of the eyes. Stick the eyes onto the face so that they overlap the edge of the triangle shape.
5. Cut out a small beak shape and stick on to the bottom of the face – make sure you just glue the part that sticks to the face so that it doesn't stick to the body as well and stop the flap from lifting up.
6. Now you are ready to decorate the body. You can do this in a number of ways – why not try cutting strips of coloured paper into zig zags like the design above – then start at the bottom of the owl's body and work upwards. Alternatively, you could cut feather shapes from coloured paper and stick them all over the body, or a simple oval shape for the owl's tummy would also work well – perhaps you'll have your own idea?
7. Now you just need to attach the wings that you cut out earlier. These should be stuck into the flaps at the sides of the bag with some sticky tape, and Wow – your owl is complete!

Now put your hand inside and use your fingers to wiggle the owl's face back and forwards!

Nocturnal Animals

Nocturnal Animals in WOW! It's Night-time:

Owls



Bats



Foxes



Rabbits



Moles



Mice



Nocturnal animals are creatures that stay awake all night and then sleep during the day. Some nocturnal animals can come out during the day time, but most of them spend the whole day asleep.

Owls, bats, foxes and moles are all nocturnal animals. Owls have big round eyes to help them see in the dark, as the night-time is when they go hunting for their food.

Can you find out about any other animals that come out at night?

Make a Night Sky Picture

Make a wax resist picture of the night sky

You will need

A sheet of white paper

Wax crayons in all colours

Black or Dark Blue poster paint

Paint Brushes and Water



- First you need to draw your scene with Wax Crayons. You could use a black / brown crayon to draw some scenery (e.g. trees / houses) and use coloured and white crayons to draw the Moon and stars in the sky. Look at the pictures in *WOW It's Night-time* for some inspiration – you will see that all the stars are different shapes, sizes and colours.
- Mix up some black / dark blue poster paint with some water so that it is quite runny and easy to spread.
- Paint over your wax crayon picture with the black/blue paint - the wax will 'resist' the paint and so your colours will still show through.
- Let your picture dry, and then you have your very own night-time sky picture.



Links and resources

About Little Angel Theatre

www.littleangeltheatre.com

About Tim Hopgood

<https://www.timhopgood.com/blog/>

Tim Hopgood's blog where you can read all about his work and find some great ideas for crafts.

Interviews — Tim Hopgood

Interviews with Tim Hopgood where he talks about his work and how he became an author

Owl Crafts & Puppet Making ideas

<http://www.daniellesplace.com/html/Owl-Crafts.html>

Lots of brilliant ideas for different owl crafts

<http://www.daniellesplace.com/html/puppets.html>

Loads of brilliant child-friendly puppet making ideas

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheLittleATheatre>

Visit YouTube to watch trailers, clips and behind the scenes films of our shows past and present and see the puppets in action!

Also available:

Little Angel Theatre visual stories for children on the autistic spectrum

(Available on the relevant show page of our website)

Workshops | Little Angel Theatre

Puppet Making Workshops for schools