

# EDUCATION RESOURCE PACK

## Wow! Said the Owl



# About This Resource Pack

We're delighted to share this resource with you, developed to support and extend the experience of our stage adaptation of Tim Hopgood's beautiful book exploring colours, and day and night.

This pack contains lots of ideas for your classroom, suitable for EYFS and KS1 age children. There are two different design ideas for making your own owl puppets, as well as suggestions for literacy and writing exercises that could come out of your study of the book or watching the show.

The pack also contains lots of interesting owl facts and ideas for artwork using a rainbow full of colours!

We hope you enjoy using this pack, and it makes you say Wow!



Based on the book written and illustrated by Tim Hopgood.  
Explore the wow-world of colours with this curious little owl who is determined to stay awake to see what day light brings.

From the warm pink glow of dawn through to a day filled with the bright colours of green leaves, blue sky, grey clouds and, finally, a stunning rainbow – 'WOW!'. But despite the beauty of the daytime world, the little owl decides that the night-time stars are the most beautiful of all.



# Introduction to Little Angel Theatre

**Little Angel Theatre, nestled in Islington, London, is a renowned puppet theatre dedicated to captivating young audiences through imaginative performances.** Established in 1961 by John and Lyndie Wright, the theatre has evolved into a vibrant hub for puppetry, offering a diverse range of productions, workshops, and educational resources.

The theatre's commitment to education is evident in its comprehensive offerings for schools. Through the Schools Partnership Programme, Little Angel Theatre provides digital and live performances, along with a wealth of online resources, including puppet-making guides and curriculum-linked activities. These resources support cross-curricular learning in subjects such as English, Science, Art, and PSHE.

For educators seeking to integrate puppetry into their teaching, the theatre offers professional development opportunities. Workshops cover various aspects of puppetry, from shadow puppets to table-top puppets, equipping teachers with practical skills to enhance classroom engagement.

Little Angel Theatre's dedication to fostering creativity and imagination makes it an invaluable resource for educators aiming to enrich their students' learning experiences through the art of puppetry.



**"LITTLE ANGEL  
IS NOTHING LESS  
THAN AN ICON  
OF NORTH  
LONDON  
CHILDHOOD"  
TIME OUT.**



# Fun Facts 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 humans and other animals.
- 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 helps 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



# Fun Facts About...

Tim Hopgood – Author of *Wow! Said the Owl*

## 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! Said the Owl* – 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.



# Colours

Wow! Said the Owl features different colours on each page and after a rainstorm, the little owl sees a beautiful rainbow.

The colours of the rainbow are;  
Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet

Can you name the colours featured in the book that are NOT rainbow colours?

There are different ways that people remember the colours of the rainbow – for example:

Richard (Red) Of (Orange) York (Yellow) Gained (Green) Battle (Blue) In (Indigo) Vain (Violet)

Some people use the made up name ROY. G. BIV to remember the colours.

Could you make up a rhyme, song or even a funny word to help you remember the order the colours go in?



# Colours in Wow! Said the Owl



Pink



Red



Blue



Yellow



Green & Orange



Grey

# Literacy Links and Ideas

## Activity Ideas

### · Songs and rhymes about colours:

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

#### I Can Sing a Rainbow

Red and yellow and pink and green;

Purple and orange and blue.

I can sing a rainbow, sing a rainbow, sing a rainbow too.

Listen with your eyes, listen with your eyes, and sing everything you see.

You can sing a rainbow, sing a rainbow, sing along with me.

Red and yellow and pink and green; purple and orange and blue.

Now, we can sing a rainbow, sing a rainbow, sing a rainbow too.

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

#### Rainbow Poem

Write each colour of the rainbow in a list down the side of a large sheet of paper. Now get your class to come up with some words about each colour e.g.

Red is the colour of a fire engine rushing to the rescue.

Orange is the colour of juicy fruit, sunsets and autumn leaves.

Yellow is the colour of spring daffodils and summer sunflowers.

Continue the same process with all the colours and add illustrations to make a colourful display!



# Colours and Colour Mixing

## Activity Idea

### Mixing Colours

Learning about colours and colour mixing is a great activity for young children – there are lots and lots of ways to do this but here is one way that is really fun for younger children;

#### You will need:

**White paper, Washable ready mix poster paints in a range of colours – primary colours are a good starting point, Paint pots and brushes, Access to a sink!**

#### What to do:

- First, use a brush to paint the child's hands – use a different colour on each hand (e.g. red on one, and yellow on the other).
- Ask the child to make a handprint with each hand in the top corners of the paper
- Now ask the child to rub their painted hands together (add more paint to each hand beforehand if necessary – this will mix the colours and now you can ask the child to make new hand prints in the middle of the paper showing what colour the first two colours make when mixed together (orange).

You can repeat the activity with different colour combinations;

red + blue = purple

blue + yellow = green

You could also try mixing some of the secondary colours and see what results you get.

Which colours featured in Wow! can you mix easily and which are more difficult?



# Night Sky Art

## Activity Idea

**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**



Look at the Night-time page in Wow! Said the Owl for some inspiration – you will see that all the stars are different shapes, sizes and colours.

- 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.
- 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.



# Owl Puppet Making

## Activity Idea

### 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 sticky tape (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!



# Owl Puppet Making

## Activity Idea

### You will need:

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



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!



# Rainbow Colour Sorting Art

## Activity Idea

### Colour Sorting to make a Rainbow



#### What you will need:

- Lots and lots of items in different colours – this could include toys, plastic kitchen utensils, household items, textiles/clothing, books, craft materials etc etc. Ideally the items are in their normal setting or placed around the room, to make it more fun to hunt for them.
- A very large sheet of paper or a plain coloured blanket or piece of fabric to lay things out on.

#### What to do:

- Send the children on a hunt around the room for anything that is red. You can set limits on size or the type of objects you want them to bring back. When they have collected lots of things, lay them out in a rainbow shape, or just in a stripe if you prefer.
- Now repeat the process for all the other rainbow colours. When you've finished, take some photos.

#### Variation:

You could make a lovely collage in this way by drawing a rainbow shape on paper and then using glue and collage materials to fill in each section of the rainbow. – try using scraps torn from magazines, feathers, buttons, ribbons/fabric scraps, sweet wrappers, bottle tops, etc.



# Useful Resources and Links



## Little Angel Theatre

Little Angel Website:

<https://littleangeltheatre.com>

<https://www.littleangeltheatre.com/for-schools/>

Workshops, shows on tour and digitally and our National School Partnership

### Other Books that explore colours:

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

- *Eliza and the Moonchild* by Emma Chichester Clark
- *Brown Bear Brown Bear, What do you see?* by Eric Carle
- *The Mixed Up Chameleon* by Eric Carle
- *Butterfly Butterfly* by Petr Horacek
- *Elmer* by David McKee
- *The Black Book of Colours* by Menena Cottin & Rosana Faria (cleverly explores the concept of colour from the point of view of someone who is blind)

<https://timhopgood.org/>  
Tim Hopgood website

### Credits

Director **Joy Haynes**

Set Designer **Fiammetta Horvat**

Puppets Designer **Keith Jury**

Lighting Designer **David Duffy**

Composer **Dominic Sales**

Creative Producer **Miranda Pitcher**

The play is based on the original book *Wow! Said the Owl* written and illustrated by Tim Hopgood.

