

The Owl and the Lemming: An Eskimo Legend

Ages: 5 to 9

Running time: 5:59

An owl goes out to hunt in order to feed his family. He captures a lemming, which congratulates him and invites him to celebrate with a dance. The crafty lemming escapes by tricking the owl to look up towards the sky while he is dancing. The owl finds himself alone and hungry once again. This puppet-animated film is inspired by an Inuit legend. (Please note that though the film uses the word Eskimo in the title, the term Inuit is now preferred.)

Pre-Viewing

Ask students if they are familiar with any fables or myths that they can share with the group.

Post-Viewing

Language Arts

Developing written and oral communication.

- Re-tell the legend.
- List animals found in the Far North that might be the subjects of other legends.
- Describe the arguments that Mrs. Owl presents to her husband after he has been fooled by the lemming.
- Develop a play song or rhyming game based on an excerpt from the film's soundtrack.

Visual Arts

Depicting plants and animals.

- Use pastels on construction paper to draw the owl at the moment when he is dancing in a circle, face turned towards the sky.
- Use playdough to depict the owl at the moment when he is capturing the lemming.

Drama

Individual improvisation on a theme.

- Pair off and act out the roles of the owl and the lemming, from the moment of the lemming's capture until its escape.

Dance

Linking together dance movements with ease.

- Listen to the music during the owl's dance. Create your own movements to accompany this music, and join them together to form a dance. (This can be either an individual or group activity.)