
SYNOPSIS:

See the latest techniques being used to preserve and protect wildlife and their habitats. From methods of communicating with dolphins, to the rehabilitation of orphaned animals to be returned to the wild, to captive breeding programs that prevent extinction, scientists are making great strides in repairing the ecological damage of the last 200 years.

CURRICULUM UNITS:

Animal Behavior
Biology
Ecology
Environmental Science
Marine Biology
Zoology

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

Biologist
Biotechnologist
Documentary Filmmaker
Ecologist
Environmental Scientist
Veterinarian
Zoologist

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

In the last 200 years, over 600 species of wildlife became extinct. 5,000 species currently reside on the endangered list. Take an in-depth look at the fate of wild animals during the next century. As natural habitats continue to shrink, so do animal populations. Explore the varying methods of preserving biodiversity. Our animals and plants are necessary parts of a thriving ecosystem. Without them, our own survival is at stake.

Explore the ways scientists are trying to communicate with animals, such as bees and dolphins. By communicating with animals in their own languages, we can help prevent their destruction.

Captive breeding programs in zoos will be used for the artificial insemination of species on the brink of extinction, to help revitalize them and re-introduce them into the wild. See how this has already helped such species as giant pandas and orangutans, as well as the incredible success story of the California condor.

ISSUES AND CRITICAL THINKING

After showing the program:

Ask your students...

Which animals have been bred in captivity?

Why is it necessary to relocate some animals?

How can speaking the language of bees help us?

Why does a dolphin's creation of toys suggest intelligence?

Have students list as many animal species as they can. Figure out on a calculator what percentage that is of the 10 million total species on Earth.

Discuss orphaned baby animals and ask students to determine what and how they would teach the animals to survive.

Discuss the ecosystem and how each part is necessary to proper functioning. Ask students to compare the biosphere to a human body.

Assign an essay in which students describe humanity's relationship to animals as they imagine it should be. How can we create a balance between using animals to meet our needs and protecting them and helping the animals to meet THEIR needs?

Assign each student an endangered species (or have them choose from a list) to research and report on to the rest of the class.

GLOSSARY:

Artificial- Made by man to imitate nature.

Ecosystem- A community of organisms and its environment functioning as a unit in nature.

Epidemic- An outbreak of disease affecting many individuals at one time.

Extinction- No longer existing in living form, having died out.

Habitat- The place or kind of place where a particular plant or animal naturally lives and grows.

High Frequency- A radio frequency between 3 and 300 megacycles; higher than the human ear can hear.

Microphones- Instruments that convert sound waves into an electric current, usually fed into an amplifier, a recorder or a broadcast transmitter.

Network- A chain of broadcasting stations linked by wire or microwave relay.

Orphan- A young animal without a mother.

Surveillance- A group of units combined to operate in unison and keep a close watch on a particular place, thing or organism.

Survival- The process of living or persisting through an event that threatens death or extinction.

Vortex- A mass of liquid in whirling motion; a whirlpool.

Wilderness- An uncultivated and uninhabited region.

The Wonders of Ecology & Conservation



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SAVING EARTH'S ANIMALS



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