#9394
SAVING EARTH'S ANIMALS

ALLEGRO PRODUCTIONS
2000
Grade Levels: 3-8
13 minutes

DESCRIPTION

Scientists and conservationists use the latest technologies as they work to preserve and protect over 5,000 endangered animals. Some techniques include communication with animals, raising orphans, moving animals to new areas, and mating programs in zoos. Uses a Q and A format.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Science: Life Sciences

- Standard: Understands biological evolution and the diversity of life
  - Benchmark: Understands the concept of extinction and its importance in biological evolution (e.g., when the environment changes, the adaptive characteristics of some species are insufficient t allow their survival; extinction is common; most of the species that have lived on the Earth no longer exist)
- Standard: Understands relationships among organisms and their physical environment
  - Benchmark: Knows that all organisms (including humans) cause changes in their environments, and these changes can be beneficial or detrimental

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To examine ways to preserve our biodiversity, reverse the excesses of the past, and prevent extinction in the future.
2. To develop ways to communicate with animals to help prevent their destruction.
3. To explore the fate of wild animals during the 21st century.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Preventing the extinction of any of the estimated ten million species of animals that currently inhabit planet Earth will be one of the main concerns of the next millennium. While protecting and preserving our biodiversity, scientists will also continue to work toward understanding and communicating with some of the other species that share our planet. Tuning in to animal perceptions may also help us gain a wider understanding of the world.

This video covers the latest developments in techniques that are being used to preserve and protect wildlife and their habitats. From methods of communicating with dolphins, to the

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rehabilitation of orphaned animals so that they can be returned to the wild, to captive breeding programs that prevent extinction, scientists will make great strides in repairing the damage of the last 200 years.

VOCABULARY

1. artificial
2. ecosystem
3. epidemic
4. extinction
5. habitats
6. high frequency
7. microphones
8. network
9. orphan
10. surveillance
11. survival
12. vortex
13. wilderness

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Which animals have been bred in captivity?
2. Why is it necessary to relocate some animals?
3. How can speaking the language of bees help us?
4. Why does a dolphin creating a toy suggest intelligence?
5. Discuss orphaned baby animals, and ask students to determine what and how they would teach animals to survive.
6. Discuss the ecosystem and how each part is necessary to proper functioning. Ask students to compare the biosphere to a human body.

Applications and Activities

1. Have students list as many animals as they can. Did they make much of a dent in ten million?
2. Assign an essay in which students describe humanity's relationship to animals as they imagine it should be.
3. Have students research endangered species and report their findings.

SUMMARY

Many of the problems of the past continue to trouble us. We lost over 600 species of wildlife over the last 200 years, and 5,000 more are currently endangered. We destroyed animal habitats and forced many creatures into ever shrinking ranges. Many scientists and conservationists have begun to look for ways to preserve our biodiversity, reverse the excesses of the past, and prevent extinction in the future.

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Scientists are also looking for ways to communicate with animals, and some of our most sophisticated technology is being used toward this end. By communicating with animals in their own languages, we can help prevent their destruction.

The program explores the fate of wild animals during the 21st century. As natural habitats continue to shrink, so do animal populations. The intervention of people may be necessary to their survival. For other animals, rehabilitation rather than relocation may be more effective. Our animals and plants are necessary parts of a thriving ecosystem. Without them, our own survival is at stake.

Captive breeding programs in zoos will be used to artificially inseminate creatures that are close to extinction, bringing them back from the brink, and then re-introducing them into the wild.

RELATED RESOURCES

Captioned Media Program

- Nature's Delicate Balance #8833

World Wide Web

The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **SAN DIEGO ZOO**

http://www.sandiegozoo.org/index.html

Visit the wild animal park, take an early walking morning tour, view giant panda cubs, and read about conservation projects which includes endangered species report on a particular mammal.

- **NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION**

http://www.nwf.org/kids/cool/leopard1.html

Ranger Rick's Kids Zone provides tours of endangered species while explaining brief facts. Follow the tracks to be led to a different page with additional information.

- **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC WILD WORLD**

http://www.nationalgeographic.com/wildworld/

Choose a map to look at some of Earth's richest, rarest, and most endangered areas or for information and images for all 867 land-based ecoregions on the planet. Also, the "Sights & Sounds" feature includes video, audio, images, interviews, maps, conservation tips, and more.

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