

Unit 2 In danger

1. Whole class instruction



Objective: To discuss the ways that animals and plants are endangered through human action. To help the students understand the concept of selfish behaviour and how this can affect plants and animals.

1.1. Go to Textbook pages 8-9

“Why are elephants and whales endangered?”

- ▶ Discuss the reasons why people hunt(ed) elephants and whales. These include to use the ivory (for piano keys, jewellery and carvings), to using whale blubber for fuel.
- ▶ Ask students what we can use instead of ivory (plastic, wood) and whale oil (natural gas, petroleum, etc). Ask students if they think it is necessary for people today to hunt elephants and whales in order to survive.

1.2. Go to Textbook page 10-11

“What are some ways that humans make it hard for animals to survive in the wild?”

- ▶ Make a list of some of the ways that humans have made life difficult for animals. These could include farming, hunting, taking land away from animals.
- ▶ Make a list of some of the ways that humans have tried to help animals. These could include making national parks, game parks and conservation areas.
- ▶ Discuss why farmers do not like carnivores. Ask students what methods farmers could use to keep carnivores from eating their animals.

1.3. Go to Textbook page 12-13

“Forests are just as important to the Earth as animals.”

- ▶ Ask students to list some things that are made of wood.

- ▶ Using the picture on page 12, ask students which animals need the forests to survive.
- ▶ Discuss what happens to the plants and animals when a forest is replaced by a plantation.



2a. Group exploration

2.1. Study an endangered animal

- ▶ Discuss an animal that is in danger and why this is happening. For example, white rhinos are now extinct in the wild (only seven remain and these are in zoos) because they have been hunted so people could use their horns in traditional medicines. Other animals are in danger because their lands are being destroyed for farming or to build homes on.

2b. Literacy activity

Go to Creative Topics>> A lion's world

- ▶ Students can read the Creative Topic book 'A lion's world'. Discuss the way that humans have affected lions and why farmers do not like lions. Students can write or discuss what they think would happen to the other animals if there were no more lions.

The Creative Topics contains a range of animal-specific books. Some, like lions, may be endangered, but also look at others, like ants, and ask why they are not endangered.

3. Plenary session

- ▶ Review the ways in which humans can endanger animals and plants.

4. Further work/homework

- ▶ Make a poster about an endangered plant or animal, asking people to protect it, and discussing why it is important.