

Lesson Plan: Why are animal habitats important? How can we protect animal habitats?

by Belinda Ringpfeil

Tool(s) used:	Sustainability Compass
Purpose of using tool:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synthesizing Thinking • Guiding Discussion <p>Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase critical thinking/connections • Encourage higher level thinking practice • Demonstrate the importance of nature and animals
Context of lesson/case study:	First grade class; private school
Participants (# and description):	Twenty-one first graders
Topic, Theme, or Key Understanding of unit/project:	Why are animal habitats important? How can we protect animal habitats?
Length of unit/project:	2 hours
Resources/materials & setting required:	Poster paper, glue stick, markers, animal pictures, Compass cards, hula hoops, Power Point, Youtube video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmBVse7D1R0&feature=youtu.be

Lesson Plan/Description of the Project:

Essential Question: How are animal habitats connected in nature, economy, society, and wellbeing? Why are animal habitats important?

Five E's Instructional Model - Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, Evaluate

Engage - Whole group/What do animals need in their habitats to survive? (shelter, food, water) 10-minute basic science PowerPoint-animal habitats.

Explore - Discussion of student's favourite animals and habitats.

Explain - Small group discussions to provide further thought on diversity: Handout two animal cards from the same habitat with each group with the question, How are these animals alike and different? Though they are different, how do they live in the same habitat?

Elaborate - Whole group with teacher will complete a CE mind map as an example.

Break - Hula hoop game to practice team building skills. Discussed rules of team members:

- 1) Respect for others' ideas
- 2) Listen
- 3) Wait your turn to talk
- 4) Cooperate with other team members.

Activity - Students will work in small groups discussing an animal and habitat. Compass cards are read and sorted into compass points- nature, wellbeing, economy, society where they are glued onto the posters.

Pictures may be drawn. Students are guided into making connections and drawing arrows on their posters.

Evaluate - Share posters with this closure question:

- Why are animal habitats important? (so the animals can live; so they can have families; so they will be happy).
- How can we protect animal habitats? (save nature where they live; make no pollution in nature; stop building too much.)

Reflection

Plusses:

Compass points provided a clear map for sorting ideas for nature, wellbeing, society, economy. They had pride in completing the map. New vocabulary words, wellbeing-society-economy, added to the depth of knowledge. More time would have allowed more feedback and discussion from students. Older students may sort single word 'Compass cards' easily.

Challenges:

For first graders, I would shorten the lesson and given more hands-on learning. With more time, I would like to hear more of their thoughts on the topics.

Suggestions for other practitioners and educators:

Students require solid background knowledge in topic to process sorting and connections thinking. I would suggest 2-3 background lessons on topic. CE tools could serve as enrichment, acceleration or assessment activities.

Evidence and Resource



Lesson plan submitted by: Belinda Ringpfeil, 2016, while serving as Director/Educator of Wells Ocean Camp (Environmental Marine Education), Alabama, USA