



A level – Conservation

Curriculum Links:

Biology – *Ecosystems; Biodiversity.*

Learning Objectives

After this session, all pupils will be able to:

- Understand the conservation value of zoos
- Know why Siamese crocodiles and Chinese alligators are endangered
- Know that conservation programs have been very successful for some crocodile species

After this session, most pupils will be able to:

- Understand the conservation actions being taken for Siamese crocodiles
- Understand what Sustainable Use is, and that it has helped some crocodile species
- Know that there are different approaches to conservation

After this session, some pupils will be able to:

- Recognise the role of zoos in conservation projects
- Understand the different conservation approaches, and the factors that determine which approach is best
- Understand that endangered wildlife species and the local people are all factors in the conservation solution, and the importance of protecting biodiversity.

Lesson Plan

We will begin with an introduction to the endangered crocodylians, and the factors that have led to this situation. We will cover hunting, fishing, protected areas, enforcement of wildlife protection laws, destruction of habitats, and the need to consider local communities in conservation programs.

Other species that have bounced back from critical levels on a few decades ago will be shown, and the conservation efforts that resulted in this come back will be explained. We examine sustainable use schemes, and the topic of crocodile farming.

The concept of conservation being a 'people problem' as much as a 'wildlife problem' will be explored, and some examples of this in crocodile conservation will be given.

Finally, the idea of protecting biodiversity will be covered, with an introduction to some of the organisations and targets that are important for understanding modern wildlife conservation programs.

We will lead students through the major points that need to be considered for a conservation program for a crocodile species, and show the links between the research, zoos, and both *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation projects.

The lesson will take place in our Education Room. The presenter will use Powerpoint, audio-visuals, as well as printed materials to illustrate key points. They will then be guided to relevant exhibits to reinforce the lesson material.

Pre-visit

Before you visit Crocodiles of the World, we suggest the pupils are made aware of the basic concepts wildlife conservation, and know of at least one endangered crocodile species.

During the Visit

Our presenter will meet you upon arrival and usher your group to the Education Room. He will suggest the exhibits that best represent the topic of the lesson. The pupils are encouraged to read the signboards located around the zoo. These are informative, and provide a wealth of material on a broad range of topics about crocodilians, habitats, and conservation.



After your visit

We will provide a worksheet that will reinforce the material in this lesson. On this worksheet, there are some links to several conservation sites that will allow the students to learn more about some of the conservation projects for crocodilians, and for biodiversity in general. It is our wish that at least some of the students will endeavour to explore this subject further. We remain available for such students with any questions they have, if they require more information or if they wish to discuss issues with us.

Duration: 45 mins classroom session, followed by own time in zoo.

Capacity: 35 Students

Contact our Education Officer: education@crocodiles-of-the-world.co.uk

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