



KS3 – Endangered Species

Curriculum Links:

Geography – Extended knowledge of world regions, using maps to analyse geographic data

Biology – Genetics and Evolution: importance of biodiversity, changes in the environment leave some species less well adapted to successfully compete; Interactions and Interdependencies: how organisms affect, and are affected by, their environment.

Chemistry – Earth and Atmosphere: Earth's limited resources, sustainable use, climate change

Learning Objectives

After this session, all pupils will be able to:

- Understand what we mean by 'endangered species'
- Understand some of the reasons why some species are endangered, and that the cause is often a result of human activities
- Understand the concept of biodiversity

After this session, most pupils will be able to:

- Explain the status of several species
- Explain the importance of biodiversity and why we must conserve it
- Read a map and know where major regions are located

After this session, some pupils will be able to:

- Locate certain species' ranges on a map
- Explain the main human activities that are threatening biodiversity
- Understand the concept of sustainable use

Lesson Plan

We will look at the crocodiles from three world regions: Africa, Asia, and South America. The basic biology of the animals will be described. The children will be shown maps of species ranges, and how these ranges have been reduced. We will explain some of the human activities that have contributed to this reduction.

The IUCN Red List will be introduced to the children, and the concepts of the different endangered 'levels' – ie. Extinct, Extinct in the Wild, Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, Near Threatened, Least Concern.

A presentation on biodiversity will allow the children to understand how species interacting within microhabitats and macrohabitats form ecosystems.

Emphasis will be made on how zoos contribute to protecting species.

The lesson will take place in our Education Room. The presenter will use Powerpoint, audio-visuals, as well as printed maps 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 of endangered species, as well as the major regions of the world. The terms 'habitat' and 'ecosystem' should also be familiar to the pupils.

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 suggest you ask the children to choose a crocodilian species, then draw on a map where it is found. They should write down whether the species is endangered or not. Discuss with the children their understanding of how biodiversity should be protected, and the concept of how biodiversity is the key to a living, breathing planet Earth.

Duration: 45 mins classroom session

Capacity: 35 Students

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

01993 846353