



WILD ANIMAL CONSERVATION CURRICULUM

GOAL: Learn about the importance of wild animal conservation and gain a higher appreciation of living things by understanding the consequences of human intervention.

Steps

1. Visit the Wild Animal Sanctuary
2. Investigate the different animals and their stories
3. Find your own animal to explore
4. Understand why animal conservation is important
5. Learn how to help



My Gold Award

By: Macy Dehm

For my Gold Award project I decided to make a line of jewelry with my best friend and sell it on an online platform, Etsy, in order to raise \$777 in order to buy an acre of land for the Wild Animal Sanctuary and put it in the name of the Girl Scouts of Colorado (certificate shown below). We completed this phase in May and the final part of my project was being able to bring Girl Scouts here to the Sanctuary to show the importance of wild animal conservation and why I chose to help an amazing organization such as this for my Gold Award. So I created this curriculum to lead you through the Sanctuary itself and guide you through a step by step process into becoming a wild animal conservation expert. My hope is for the Girl Scouts to continue to come to the Sanctuary to learn and to carry on my project through spreading awareness.



Itinerary

1. Meet in the lobby of the Sanctuary + watch 15 min required video

2. Worksheets

The Pick A Pal worksheets **below** are to engage the girls during the trip. If they want to they can pick a favorite animal at any time during the visit and fill out information they learned about them. They can also complete this at home after the fact.

Pick a Pal

On our way back pick and choose your favorite animal!



IF YOUR ANIMAL HAS A
NAME WRITE IT HERE:

DRAW THEM HERE!



WHAT KIND OF
ANIMAL IS IT?



WHY ARE THEY YOUR
FAVORITE?

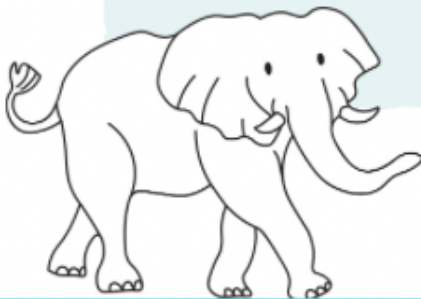


DO YOU THINK ITS IMPORTANT
TO SAVE YOUR ANIMAL AND
OTHERS? WHY?



HOW WAS YOUR DAY AT
THE SANCTUARY?

- ☐ THE BEST
- ☐ AMAZING
- ☐ GREAT
- ☐ GOOD
- ☐ OKAY



3. Learn about the types of animals at the Sanctuary

African Lions

Where?

Africa

What do they eat?

Large herbivores

How many are left in the wild?

20,000 left

How many does sanctuary have?

70

What is the main cause of abuse?

Trophy hunting

Personal stories from Sanctuary:

- Male Lion, Dark, along with his mate, Haeri, and their cub, Haeryong, were obtained from a zoo in Seoul, South Korea. Tragically, the adult Lions were involved in a situation where a keeper lost his life, at which time the zoo was pressured to euthanize the animals. Fortunately, a Korean animal welfare organization advocated on their behalf. For three-plus years they languished in solitary confinement out of view of the public—with Haeri giving birth to a cub in the meantime. Approached by the animal welfare organization, the Sanctuary agreed to rescue them and save them from certain death. All of them now live as a family pride in a large-acreage habitat—happier and safer than they have ever been.

- Xinna is a female African Lion that was being kept privately in Mexico. Her owner purchased her illegally and pulled her claws and teeth out when she was very young in an attempt to make her safe for him to play with. When he realized that wasn't going to make her any less dangerous, he, locked inside a dark room where she languished without adequate food or water for many months. Eventually, she was rescued by a zoo in Mexico that our Sanctuary works with on a regular basis, and was brought to Colorado where she now lives with other Lions in a large natural habitat.

Tigers

Where?

Asia

What do they eat?

Herbivores of all sizes

How many are left in the wild?

3,900

How many does sanctuary have?

85

What is the main cause of abuse?

Poaching and illegal wildlife trade

Personal stories from Sanctuary:

- Male Tiger, Fireball, was one of 20 Tigers rescued from one of the most notorious Tiger breeding facilities and roadside zoos in the country (Joe Exotic's Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park of The Tiger King series). Most likely born there and used in their pay-to-play-with-cubs racket, Fireball would have quickly outgrown that use and then spent years languishing in a small cage. Fortunately for these 20 Tigers the owner opened a short window where he agreed to release them and the Sanctuary was quick to step in and give the Tigers a new lease on life. Fireball can now look forward to a wonderful life with lots of love, room and living with other Tigers—free from all human exploitation.

- Timara is a female White Tiger that was rescued from a roadside zoo in Ohio that failed to care for their animals. With freezing temperatures, no heat or adequate shelter and nutritional deficiencies, Timara's coat of hair failed to shine as brightly as it should and she was underweight. Yet, in a much cleaner environment, and with a lot of well-balanced food flowing through her digestive system, Timara is transforming into a beautiful snow-white Tiger and will live freely at the Sanctuary, enjoying her new life with the company of other rescued Tigers.

Bears

Where?

Asia, North America, and Europe

What do they eat?

Berries, fish, meat, grass

How many are left in the wild?

200,000 in total

How many does sanctuary have?

199, the most out of all the species here

What is the main cause of abuse?

Habitat loss due to humans or to the warming of the planet (polar bears)

Personal stories from Sanctuary:

- Dillan is a male Asiatic Black Bear that was rescued from a sportsmen's club in rural Pennsylvania. Subjected to the sound of constant gunfire from the shooting ranges and with no enrichment, Dillan suffered from severe *zoochosis* where he rocked rhythmically against a concrete wall hours on end—for years according to one person familiar with the situation. He also suffered from morbid obesity due to his poor diet and lack of exercise and had a mouthful of rotting teeth and gums. With pressure from many fronts for the club to either better care for Dillan or let him go to an accredited sanctuary, the club ownership finally agreed to release him to the USDA which then released him to The Wild Animal Sanctuary. Dillan will now join one of the Sanctuary's female Asiatic Bears and they will together roam freely in a large acreage habitat and enjoy living a healthy life, free from harm and doing everything else Bears enjoy!

- These two Grizzly Bears were part of a Russian circus where they lived in a truck for 17 years. The circus closed when the owner/trainer died. When they arrived at TWAS, they suffered nicotine withdrawals, as that was what their trainer used (by getting them addicted) to train them-so they would be desperate enough to do tricks for him. They are now addiction free, and enjoy plenty of space to play.

Wolves

Where?

Asia, North America, and Europe

What do they eat?

Deer, elk, bison, moose

How many are left in wild?

200,000-250,000

How many does sanctuary have?

37

What is the main cause of abuse?

Habitat loss due to humans

Personal stories from Sanctuary:

- Duke is a male Wolf that was captured after being found running loose in the Woods outside of Denver, CO. He was obviously someone's pet that had gotten loose, and animal control confiscated him and asked the Sanctuary to give him a permanent home. Duke is now a happy member of the Sanctuary's Arctic Wolf Pack and enjoying his life roaming with his new Wolf Family.

4. Learn about the 'why' and what we can do to help

4a. Why do we care?

Animals are such a huge component of our daily lives. They contribute in ways we don't even realize. With the disappearance of wild animals from their natural habitats, ecosystems are forced to change or collapse. With every ecosystem failure, the environment becomes more and more unbalanced and less stable to support life. If this problem worsens, it can heavily affect our everyday lives and the world that we are accustomed to. Once they're gone, they're gone forever. They deserve our protection and effort to conserve their homes and their families, since humans are the cause of most animal extinctions and endangerments.

4b. What can you do?

- Support animal + environment positive places like this and companies
- Be aware of how your actions affect the world around you
- Be appreciative of the world we live in and what these animals do for us
- Protect fellow living creatures
- Coexist
- Share the earth

5. Visit Tiger rehab center + video tent

- look at the tigers in rehabilitation

- spend 10-15 mins watching the rescue stories in the tent

6. You've reached the end! Walk back to the main entrance, thank yous, pictures + bye bye!

Congrats!! You completed the program and learned about the importance of animal conservation! Thank you for your support!