

Conservation and zoos

Key Stage 3 and 4

Learning objectives

To list reasons why species can become endangered.

To describe how ZSL help conserve animals through their work at Whipsnade Zoo and out in the wild.

Session content

This session lasts for 40 minutes and looks at how zoos help in conservation using Whipsnade Zoo and the charity that owns it, ZSL, as examples. During the session students will work in pairs to discover why some species have become threatened and how they are classified using the IUCN Red list. Students will have the opportunity to handle a variety of biofacts (skins, skulls, bone etc) many of which are on loan from HM Customs and Excise. They will also find out how ZSLs conservation programmes help animals in the wild. The session shows how the work done both in the Zoo and in the wild helps ZSL to achieve its conservation mission.

Learning outcomes

At the end of this session...

- Most students will be able to list 4 reasons why species are threatened in the wild and will be able to describe the 2 ways in which ZSL is helping to conserve animals.
- Some students may have progressed further and will be able to list reasons why animals are threatened in the wild and give example. They will be able to give 2 ways in which zoos help to conserve animals in the zoo and two ways in which ZSL is conserving animals out in the wild.
- Some students may not have progressed as far and will be able to list a few reasons why species are threatened in the wild and may be able to give a statement about how zoo help to conserve animals.

KS3 National Curriculum subject links

- **KS3 Sci 3.4c** - Human activity and natural processes can lead to changes in the environment.
- **KS3 Sci 4c** - Use real life examples as a basis for finding out about science.
- **KS3 Sci 4e** - Experiencing science outside the school environment.

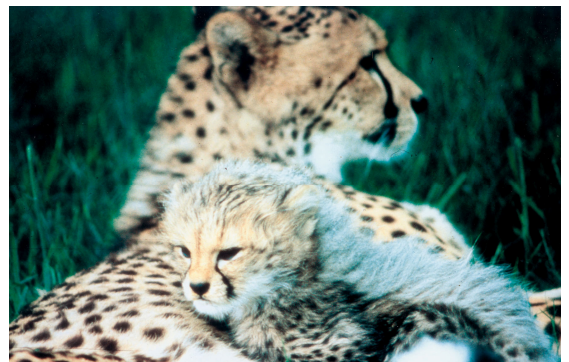
GCSE specification links

- **OCR Gateway Science B and Biology B B2** - Describe reasons why animals become extinct or endangered and how these species can be helped.
- **OCR Entry Level Science B3** - Suggest how human beings have caused some species to become endangered or extinct and give examples of endangered species.

Links to other curriculum: KS3 Citizenship, GCSE Environmental Science.

Assessment opportunities

During the session students' can be assessed through questioning, listening to group discussions during the activities and from their written work.



Session suitability

This session is presented verbally and supported with text and images projected onto a screen. It is possible to provide individual materials for any partially sighted students. During the activities students will work in pairs using written information and biofacts to find out more about endangered species and conservation.

Additional information

We would like to know in advance if any members of your class have learning, physical or sensory difficulties, allergies or illness which might affect their enjoyment of the session. It is usually possible to tailor the sessions should your group has any special requirements. Please call 01582 871330 at least 2 weeks in advance of your visit to discuss the best way to do this.

Suggested activities:

Before the visit

- Students should be familiar with the reasons why species are threatened in the wild and the terminology listed below
 - Vulnerable
 - Endangered
 - Threatened
 - Extinct
- Ask students what their favourite species of animal is and how they would feel if it became extinct. What might they consider doing to stop their favourite species from becoming extinct?
- Question the students on their opinions about zoos. What do they believe zoos do? Do they think zoos are good or bad? Students could make notes on these questions before the visit and compare their opinions after they have come to the Zoo.

During the visit

- Students could complete the trail 'The role of a good zoo' a copy of which can be downloaded from the website. This trail will start students thinking about how zoos can help conserve animals. *NB: Remember to download the teacher copy as well as the student copy.*
- Students could visit one of the following enclosures to find out more about why these species are endangered and what ZSL is doing to conserve them.
 - Chimpanzees
 - White rhino
 - Lions

After the visit

- Please complete a feedback sheet (available at the session or from our website) to help improve the education provision at Whipsnade Zoo.
- Students could debate the pro and cons of zoos using information they gathered while at Whipsnade and any additional information they have gathered at school or during private study.
- Students could design a poster or website for an awareness campaign about endangered species including the reasons why animals are threatened in the wild and how we can conserve these species for the future.

Useful websites

ZSL Whipsnade Zoo conservation programmes – www.zsl.org/conservation

Arkive – www.arkive.org/species

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species - www.iucnredlist.org

Reintroduction of Arabian oryx - www.oryxoman.com

21st Century Tiger - www.21stcenturytiger.org