

Save the Tigers!

WebQuest Description: A WebQuest developed to encourage interest in the conservation of tigers.

Grade Level: 6-8

Curriculum: Social Studies

Keywords: tigers, conservation

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Introduction

Did you know Tigers are the most popular animal in the world? In a poll conducted by Animal Planet, they were voted even more popular than dogs and cats! However, they are in serious trouble. Their numbers are dropping quickly. In December 2010 there were approximately 3500 tigers left in the wild. This is where you can help. You and your team will become highly skilled tiger experts and help convince world leaders to Save the Tiger!

Tasks

Congratulations! Leaders of several Asian nations are coming to Washington, DC to meet with President Obama. You and your expert team of researchers have been invited to give a presentation on the importance of tiger conservation. Your presentation will include a short research paper on tigers and a PowerPoint on the threats against tigers today. Good Luck!

Process

1. First you will be divided into teams of four. In order to be a convincing advocate for tigers, you need to learn all you can about them. Use the following web sites for basic tiger information. Each team member should choose one of the following topics to research:
 - Describe a tiger's habitat.
 - What do tigers eat?
 - How do the sub-species of tigers differ?
 - Where do tigers live today and where did tigers live 100 years ago?For this question, please start with Google Maps for country images.
<http://www.bigcat.com/tiger.aspx>; This site is dedicated to all of the big cats, as well as zoos in North America. There are too many ads on each page which is a bit distracting but the site has good facts on tigers that you may not find anywhere else.
<http://www.worldwildlife.org/species/finder/tigers/index.html>; This is a very professional site with in-depth information about all the sub-species of tigers. You will find answers to all of the questions for your research and also enjoy some very good videos and images of tigers.
<http://www.tigers-world.com>; This is definitely the site to visit for the most in-depth information on the sub-species. This also has an interesting section on tigers and their interaction with humans.
2. If your team still has questions about tigers, consider consulting with a tiger expert at Save the Tiger Fund:
http://www.savethetigerfund.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Ask_A_Tiger_Expert&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=12&ContentID=2394
3. Now, you are ready to learn about conservation programs aimed at tigers. Each member of your team should research one of the following organizations. Consider their successes and failures and be prepared to decide whether or not to recommend that the world leaders work with these organizations.
<http://www.worldwildlife.org/tigers>; World Wildlife Fund is generally a highly respected advocate for animals. Check and see if they understand the problems with tigers.
<http://www.savethetigerfund.org>; This organization is solely dedicated to saving tigers. They may be a bit extreme but a skilled researcher can find out what is true and what might be exaggerated.
<http://www.21stcenturytiger.org>; A good professional organization dedicated to raising money and awareness. The site has tiger facts, tiger news and tiger blogs.
<http://www.forevertigers.com>; This site is not as professional in appearance. See if you can determine the validity of the organization.
4. Watch the following tiger conservation video. Consider adding links in your paper or PowerPoint to this or other conservation videos.
<http://youtu.be/fDNC14tJSTU>; This is the movie trailer to a wonderful documentary about a tiger named Broken Tail. The producers and directors spent 600 days following this tiger. It details the problems that man and tiger have sharing a habitat. You will certainly want to see the movie after viewing this trailer.
5. Examine the timeline of tiger conservation. Be certain to add these points to your presentation.
<http://www.timetoast.com/timelines/97244>; A very complete timeline covering the last century and highlights in tiger conservation - both positive and negative.
6. Do you think you know enough to convince the world leaders of the importance of tigers? Take the interactive quiz at the end of this webquest and then return to item number 7. Good Luck!!!
7. Work together as a team to write a persuasive paper on the importance of saving the world's remaining tigers. Remember your audience. Visit ReadWriteThink for help and ideas.
http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/persuasion_map/8. Now, it is time for your PowerPoint. Revisit the web sites above and Google images for captivating tiger images to persuade the world leaders. If you need help making your PowerPoint, visit the following help site.
http://www.ehow.com/way_5139551_powerpoint-

tutorial-kids.html Your PowerPoint should include basic information about tigers, how their habitat has diminished over the past century, groups that are trying to help tigers and your persuasive argument for why the world leaders should help. There should be at least 15 slide with pictures on each slide.

Evaluation

Your research team will "practice" your presentation for the class. Though they may look like your classmates, remember they are standing in for the world leaders you need to convince about the need for tiger conservation. Each member of your team should contribute. You will be graded according to the following rubric.

Category and Score	Beginning	Developing	Very Good	Exemplary	Score
Organization	5 Paper and presentation are unorganized.	10 Information and graphics are placed haphazardly on the page	15 Presents findings and conclusions with some degree of organization	20 Presents findings and conclusions in an organized manner	
Persuasiveness	5 The presentation is not at all persuasive.	10 Shows little evidence of persuasion	15 Shows some effort to persuade the audience	20 Makes a dramatic and compelling argument	
Content	5 Doesn't use any examples from web sites	10 Uses less than 2 examples from web sites	15 Uses 3-5 examples from the websites	20 Uses 6 or more examples from the websites	
Presentation	5 Presentation does not include required number of slides. No clear transitions. No backgrounds or graphics	10 Presentation does not include required number of slides but some attempts at effective transitions and style is made.	15 Presentation includes required number of slides. Transitions, backgrounds and colors are wisely chosen.	20 Presentation includes required number of slides. All slides, sounds, and colors work well together for smooth presentation.	
				Total Score	

Conclusion

This WebQuest has taught you the importance of conserving tigers in their natural habitats. Please encourage your classmates to take the tiger quiz to see if they learned from your research. If your classmates have been inspired, encourage them to visit the sites used for your presentation to help save the tigers...and remember, tigers are only one of many endangered species in the world.

Teacher Page

This WebQuest was designed for grade 6-8 high achievers in a social studies or English class. It has been my experience that students of this age not only love animals but they are passionate about causes. I believe they would be very interested in pursuing this topic. The webquest would serve as a necessary beginning to excite the students about the cause of saving endangered animals. As they become more knowledgeable about conservation organization, this would spread from tigers to other animals. This webquest could be used in conjunction with a Wildlife Conservation Month. Many states have them - unfortunately they vary from state to state. - The library could have great display with endangered stuffed animals and books about these animals. - Math classes could study the maps of animals' habitats in the past vs. today. The decrease could be calculated and displayed in poster graphs. - English classes could start a letter writing campaign to their congresspersons asking for action to help save endangered animals. - Language classes could even be included by learning the names of the animals in the countries where they reside.

Standards

Credits

Other