

A Tail of Elephants

WebQuest Description: Students will be able to get an inside look into the lives and history of elephants by exploring various websites and watching authentic videos that offer the viewer a detailed depiction of elephant culture. Elephants live in diverse conditions like, the wild, in sanctuary and in captivity. Students will work together to research and discover the negative impact captivity has on elephants versus the benefits of sanctuary by creating a website of their own.

Grade Level: 6-8

Curriculum: Science

Keywords: captivity, elephants, sanctuary

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Introduction

Hi boys and girls! My name is Mandy and this is my best friend Roxy. We got lucky enough to come live here in an Elephant Sanctuary in Brazil after growing up in captivity. Roxy and I met when we both came here together after many years of being paraded around as Circus Elephants. We want you to explore and learn all about what life is really like for Elephants who unfortunately are raised in captivity. Through this Web Quest you will get to see the benefits of sanctuaries and how Roxy and I have come to love our family here! So get ready to go on a fun adventure as you discover many interesting things about how Elephants live.

Tasks

Now it is time for you to begin your wild adventure on the exploration of Elephants. Each group of 4 students will work together to research all there is to know about the various lifestyles of elephants. Once you and your group have completed your research you will work together to create a website using Live-binder to discuss your findings. After your group has finished creating your website, you will share it with the class. Imagine yourself in this situation. You are a Social Media Team Leader for the organization Global Sanctuary for Elephants. GSEs mission is to protect, rescue and provide sanctuary for captive elephants worldwide. You have been hired as their social media campaign manager and they have assigned you with the task to promote their mission through a variety of social media platforms including blog posts, Facebook, and Twitter. In order to endorse GSE you must research information about captive elephants and the benefits of their organization and create a website (using Livebinder) in which you will present to the marketing director of the company. Consider counter arguments when creating your post. You have been allotted one hour to write your initial website.

Process

Are you and your group members ready to explore the life of elephants? Get ready to hop on the tour bus as we embark on this African safari! Pull out your binoculars as we learn all about elephants and their lives in captivity and in sanctuary. First you need to get with your group and review the roles that will be listed below. Second you need to work it out with your group and decide who will have what role. Third you need to research using the websites about the topic given. Fourth, use the questions as your guide and take notes while you research. Fifth, get with your group members and share what you learned with one another. Sixth, together you will work to create a website using Livebinder. There should be 7 tabs: title page with your group members names, roles 1-4, then a work cited page. The seventh slide should include your overall thoughts about this assignment along with your thoughts about elephants in captivity and sanctuary. Your Livebinder must include pictures, at least one video and detailed information. It should be persuasive and informative. Role 1: Background of elephants: when reviewing this section you will learn some of the main facts about elephants. (consider these questions)-Where are the majority of elephants located?-Are elephants endangered or threatened?-What is the average lifespan of elephants?-How much do elephants weigh?-What do elephants eat?-How do elephants eat?-What are some of the different types of elephants?-How do elephants keep cool?-Are elephants social creatures? *These are just a few questions that you should consider, but are not limited to. *Use this link to help you figure out these answers. This website also has games for you to poke around in. <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/elephants/> Role 2: Elephants in captivity: in this section you will understand what captivity means and the negative impact it has on elephants (consider these questions)-What is the welfare of elephants like in captivity?-Are elephants are mostly taken from the wild?-What is the average lifespan of elephants in sanctuary vs. the wild?-What are some of the problems and diseases elephants can obtain from being in captivity?-When did the capturing of elephants begin? Where did it stem from?-What were captured elephants used for in the past?-What are captured elephants mainly used for today? ex: circus, religious reasons, zoo's, parades, marketing, entertainment, etc.-How are elephants treated in captivity?-What is free contact and protected contact? *Pick and answer at least 5 of these 7 questions. Feel free to answer all if not more. *Use these websites to help you find your answers. <http://www.elephantvoices.org/elephants-in-captivity-7/traditions-use-a-abuse.html> <http://newswatch.nationalgeographic.com/2013/05/03/no-ethical-way-to-keep-elephants-in-captivity/> <http://www.peta.org/issues/animals-in-entertainment/zoos/get-elephants-zoos/> Role 3: Sanctuary for elephants: in this section you will get to learn exactly what a sanctuary is and the various benefits that it provides elephants. (consider these questions)-What is a sanctuary?-What is their mission?-How are elephants treated in sanctuary vs. captivity?-Life span of zoo vs. wild vs. captivity vs. sanctuary?-How does sanctuary help against poachers and hunters?-Are there many sanctuaries worldwide?-What are some

objectives of Elephant Sanctuaries? -What does Elephant Voices do? -What are some of the ways that GSE takes care of their elephants? *Review these websites and answer some of these questions as well as any you think of on your own. This section should really be focused on in your final product considering you are promoting elephant sanctuaries *Use these websites to help you with the

questions <http://www.globalelephants.org> <https://www.facebook.com/globalsanctuaryforelephants> <http://www.elephantvoices.org/about-elephantvoices/what-we-do.html> <http://animals.pawnation.com/life-span-elephants-2233.html> Role 4: How would you spread the message of sanctuaries? What would you do to help?: In this section you will be focusing on social media strategies to get the word out as well as any other method you can think of. (consider these questions) -What social media websites are popular today? -What age range (audience) am I trying to reach? -How can I promote this in the best way? (Poster, commercial, website, radio, brochure, flyers, etc.) (You do not actually have to make these, just think of some ideas and how you would use them) -What are some ways that you yourself can help elephants? *Think about these questions and come up with some ways that you yourself can personally help and come up with a promotional strategy. *Use these websites to help

you <http://www.globalelephants.org> <http://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/animals/stories/6-ways-to-help-elephants> Below are three more Sanctuary websites that you can use to help you create your website. These are sanctuaries in the US: TES www.elephants.com PAWS <http://www.pawsweb.org> This is a sanctuary in Thailand: ENP <http://www.elephantnaturepark.org>

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated using the following rubric. Students will be scored as a whole and based on their individual work.

Category and Score	Beginning	Developing	Very Good	Exemplary	Score
Collaboration	Student does not work well with other in group. Does not contribute or listen to others ideas. Student did not complete their assigned job.	Student worked okay with other members. Did not really contribute any ideas and participated slightly. Did minimal work of their assigned job.	Student worked well with other group members and listened to their ideas. they contributed some ideas to the group and did their assigned job.	Student worked well with all group members. Contributed to all discussions and respected others ideas. Did all of their assigned tasks and worked to help others.	25%
Project, grammar, punctuation, spelling, structure.	Student did not turn in project at all or on time. There were countless errors.	Student did not follow requirements, several errors.	Student turned in project, minimal errors.	Student turned in project, had little to no errors.	25%
Style (colorful, bright, organized, pictures, flows)	No color, no pictures, material not organized well.	No color, sloppy, material slightly flows.	Good color and style. Work is well organized and includes pictures. Flows nicely and easy to understand.	Excellent color and organization, several pictures that match the information, flows with easy to understand information.	25%
Presentation	Student failed to present.	Student presented late or with no enthusiasm. Read straight from the screen.	Student presented on time with enthusiasm. Did not read directly from screen.	Student presented with full energy and moved around engaging audience. Only referenced the screen when presenting.	25%
				Total Score	

Conclusion

Hey guys! Roxy and I want to thank you for taking the time to learn about us and our friends! Please remember to help in anyway you can and don't be shy and come see us! We are here just playing around and enjoying our life in sanctuary! Yay! You have successfully learned about elephants and their lifestyles and environments! What did you think about the different ways elephants are raised? Do you think elephants should be in zoos? Captivity? Include your final thoughts in your project!

Teacher Page

Calling all teachers! This WebQuest was designed so that students can learn some background information on elephants as well as their lifestyles. Students learned about captivity and sanctuary and were asked to present information on both. Students should work in groups with four students per group. This assignment should take about an hour to complete minus presentation time. Once your students finish their projects, you can choose to submit them to the Global Sanctuary for Elephants by sending them to P.O. Box 2426 Brentwood, TN 37024 or by email to kat@globalelephants.org

Standards

These standards are from the North Carolina Essential Standards of Science and also the standards for technology grades 6-8
7.L.1: Understand the processes, structures and functions of living organisms that enable them to survive, reproduce and carry out the basic functions of life.

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￼8.L.3: Understand how organisms interact with and respond to the biotic and abiotic components of their environment.

6.TT.1. Use technology and other resources for the purpose of accessing, organizing, and sharing information.

6.RP.1. Apply a research process for collaborative or individual research.

7.TT.1. Use technology and other resources for assigned tasks.

7.RP.1 Apply a research process to complete given tasks.

8.TT.1. Use technology and other resources for assigned tasks.

8.RP.1.Apply a research process to complete project-based activities.

Credits

Images for this WebQuest were taken from Google Images after the word "elephants" was typed in the search bar.

Other

This website has some learning games based on elephants that students can do during centers.

<http://www.learninggamesforkids.com/mammal-games-videos/elephant-games-videos.html>