



SeaWorld/Busch Gardens Wildlife Regulations

K-3 Classroom Activities

Animals and the Law Spelling Bee

OBJECTIVE

The student will correctly spell vocabulary associated with animals and the law. The student will identify various facts relating to animals and the law.

ACTION

1. Distribute one spelling bee sheet to each student prior to the day of the spelling bee.
2. Explain that the words listed on the sheet will be used the next day during the spelling bee.
3. For the spelling bee, place students in a circle and seat them.
4. Select one student to start the spelling bee. The chosen student will stand up and the teacher will read one of the words from the spelling bee sheet aloud. The student must repeat the word to be spelled, then spell it, and repeat the word again.
5. If the student correctly spells the word they may take their seat in the circle. Each student will have a different word to spell. If the word was spelled incorrectly, the teacher will correctly spell the word for the student before the student takes their seat again in the circle. The misspelled word will then be added to a homework assignment for the class.
6. Explain that the homework assignment will consist of defining all words missed during the spelling bee and the word's relationship to animals or the law.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

According to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), there are 515 species of animals and 743 species of plants listed as endangered or threatened—just in the United States! USFWS enforcement officers work around the clock to protect these plants and animals from extinction. Why is it so important to protect these plants and animals? Biodiversity, of course! Every plant and animal has a certain role to play in the environment, but some of them are struggling to survive because of poaching, habitat destruction, pollution, or the pet trade. In this exercise, the students will begin to learn about the plight of endangered and threatened animals and identify the words most often used when discussing them.

Extension

Ask students to try to spell words on the spelling bee list backwards, without writing them down. Begin with the easier words (act, bill) and progress to the longer words (environment, endangered).

MATERIALS

For each student:

- spelling bee worksheet



The California sea otter is just one of hundreds of animals protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972.

Spelling Bee Worksheet

Act: Legislation that has passed both Houses of Congress and the President or passed over his/her veto, and has become law.

Adapt: A behavior which makes an organism more successful in its habitat.

Amendment: The alteration of language or provisions of a bill or act.

Bill: Proposed legislation.

Biodiversity: The variety of life forms, their ecological roles and their genetic diversity.

CITES: The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which was signed in 1973.

Conserve: Using habitats, resources, animals and plants wisely, so as to save them for future generations.

Ecosystem: An ecological system of relationships in a local environment including relationships between organisms and the environment itself.

Endangered: In danger of extinction throughout (all or a significant portion of) its range if current trends affecting its population continue.

Environment: The external surroundings in which an organism lives.

Extinct: The loss of an entire species so there are no living members.

Habitat: An arrangement of space, food, water and shelter suitable for the survival and reproduction of an organism.

Illegal: Not lawful.

Law: A rule established by authority.

Legislation: the process of making rules enforced by government or organizations.

Pet: An animal kept for companionship.

Poaching: Unlawful hunting or fishing.

Protect: To keep from harm.

Save: To preserve or safeguard.

Species: A group of organisms that closely resembles one another, that breeds under natural conditions, and produces fertile offspring.

Trade: The exchange of one thing for another.

Veto: When the President rejects a bill and prevents it from becoming a law.

Wild: Growing or living in a natural state.