

Lesson Plan

Short Report

Book: Mountain Lions

Series: Animals of North America

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students practice researching a topic and writing about it, organize facts in a coherent structure, and include transition words and phrases to maintain a flow of ideas.

Supplies

- *Mountain Lions*
- National Geographic Kids “Mountain Lions” web page: <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mountain-lion/#mountain-lion-on-rock.jpg>
- San Diego Zoo “Mountain Lions” web page: <http://animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/mountain-lion-puma-cougar>
- IUCN Red List “Mountain Lion” web page: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/18868/0>
- Other online resources

Before the Activity

Read through the *Mountain Lions* book, or assign it to the students to read on their own.

Activity

After reading the *Mountain Lions* book, have the students choose one of the following topics to learn more about.

Hunting

1. What do mountain lions eat?
2. How do they catch their prey?
3. What do they do with their food after they catch it?

Names

1. What are other names for a mountain lion?
2. Where do these names come from?
3. Why do mountain lions have so many names?

Range

1. In what countries and habitats do mountain lions live?
2. Do mountain lions migrate?
3. How big of an area will one mountain lion live in?

Students should use the National Geographic Kids web page, the San Diego Zoo web page, the IUCN Red List web page, and other online resources to research their topic. They should use their research to write three paragraphs about mountain lions. Each paragraph should have a topic sentence supported by facts from their research. Remind the students to use linking words or phrases (such as *also*, *but*, or *on the other hand*) to connect the facts in a way that will make sense to their readers.

Evaluation

Did the students answer all the questions about their research topic? Did they include linking words or phrases? Did they use correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar in their writing?

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' writing standards, grade 3 (W 3.2; W 3.7) and language standards, grade 3 (L 3.1; L 3.2).