Lesson Plan

Habitat Hoops!

Series: Animals in Danger
Level: Pioneer

Objective

To help students identify threats to wild animals' habitats and describe how the changes negatively affect the animals that live there.

Supplies

- One or more books in the Animals in Danger series
- Hula hoops (or an alternative, such as string or rope laid out on the floor to create multiple circles)
- Whiteboard, chalkboard, or large paper
- Markers or chalk
- CD player, computer, speaker, or radio for playing music

Before the Activity

Place hula hoops on the floor around the room. Clump them together so there isn't much distance between them.

Activity

Divide students into small groups, and have each group read one book in the Animals in Danger series. Once students have finished reading, ask the following questions:

- What is your animal's habitat like?
- What kinds of things does your animal need in its habitat in order to live?
- Does your animal's habitat face problems or dangers? What are some examples?

Write the list of threats on the whiteboard, chalkboard, or large paper. Once you have a list, ask students to stand up and imagine they are the animal they just read about. The classroom is their habitat. Explain that you will play music. As the music plays, students can mill about the room, moving like their animal. When you stop the music, they must freeze. Say, "Everyone, freeze!" to remind students of this. Then, announce that one of the problems from the list has occurred (e.g. a road was built and split the habitat into two fragments). As you describe the threat, remove at least one hula hoop. Then resume playing the music. The next time the music stops, students must rush to stand in one of the hula hoops. Say, "Grab a habitat!" to remind students of this. Only one student can end up in each hula hoop. Any student without a hoop is out. So, the activity becomes a modified version of musical chairs. The final student in a habitat hoop wins.

Copyright © 2027 by Focus Readers. This document may be printed and reproduced for local use only.

After the game is over, reflect on the following questions as a group:

- What was it like when you couldn't make it to a hoop?
- What problems could having less space cause for animals?

Evaluation

Could students read their books in their small groups? Could they answer the questions before and after the game?

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational text, grades 1, 2, and 3 (RI 1.1–2, 2.1–2, 3.1–2), and the National Science Education Standards' Content Standard C, grades K–4.

Copyright © 2027 by Focus Readers. This document may be printed and reproduced for local use only.