We’re in This Together

Objectives

* Students will identify environmental problems of concern to both people and wildlife.
* Students will understand that people, domesticated animals, and wildlife are subject to similar environmental problems.

Background

Both humans and wildlife share the same basic needs: food, shelter, water, and living space. They also have many of the same environmental concerns. The health and well-being of people, domesticated animals, like pets, and wildlife depends on an environment that has clean, available food, water, shelter and space.

The purpose of this activity is for students to recognize that people and wildlife are subject to the same or similar environmental problems.

Procedure

* 1. Ask students to discuss environmental issues related to wildlife and record these ideas for the class to see.
  2. Have students develop a set of five questions to use in interviewing classmates about environmental issues affecting wildlife.
  3. Each student should interview 2 people using the questions they developed.
  4. Combine the concerns identified from all the interviews and rank the concerns from those mentioned most often to least often.
  5. Students will then write a three paragraph essay that summarizes what they learned in their interviews. Be sure students are emphasizing that people and wildlife share many environmental concerns and are “in this together”.

Assessment

1. Categorize the concerns you have found according to whether they are problems for humans, domestic animals, or wildlife?
2. Complete the Venn diagram showing how environmental issues affect humans, wildlife, domestic animals, or all three.
3. Do the same issues affect humans, domestic animals, and wildlife? Explain.
4. How does each population cope with the environmental issues listed?