

LESSON 1: Threatened species around the world

Teaching & learning activities

Students discuss the meaning of the term 'threatened species' (teachers refer to Information Sheet #1). In this class discussion, they brainstorm examples of well-known threatened species of animals or plants found in the world. These 'possible threatened species' are listed on the board.

In pairs, students are allocated a 'possible' threatened species from the list on the board. They then research whether the animal or plant is a threatened species using the Internet and/or books in the library. Pairs discuss and write a brief joint exposition arguing whether or not their animal or plant is a threatened species.

Pairs read their exposition to the class and the animals or plants listed on the board are confirmed (or not) as threatened species.

The idea that a group of plants and animals living together (called an 'ecological community') can also be 'threatened' is introduced to the students (teachers refer to Information Sheet #2). It should be stressed that although the individual plants in the community may not be threatened themselves, the 'mix' of plants may only be found at a few locations in the world.

(*Literacy links*: writes an exposition and chooses relevant information from a range of texts)

Syllabus Outcomes

GE3-1 Describes the diverse features and characteristics of places and environments

Content:

Students:

- investigate the ways people change the natural environment in Australia and another country, for example:
 - examination of how people, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, have influenced each country's environmental characteristics e.g. land clearing

Objectives - Implementing the Environmental Education Policy in your school

Students will develop knowledge and understandings about:

- the nature and function of ecosystems and how they are interrelated (K1)
- Students will develop skills in:
- applying technical expertise within an environmental context (S1)

Resources required:

- Internet and/or library access
- Information Sheets 1 and 2 (for teachers) from the Kit