



Theme: Animals (Grades 3-5)

Post-Visit Activity #2

The Great Debate - Held in Captivity or Out in the Wild?

Overview:

Students will host a debate. The teams will debate whether animals should be kept in captivity or released into the wild.

Objectives:

- Students will participate in a debate.
- Students will learn to respect different points of view.
- Students will comprehend that there are pros and cons when making decisions.

Activity:

1. Divide students into two groups. Assign one group the topic, "In favor of captivity," and the other group, "Opposed to captivity."
2. The students will work in their groups to come up with points to support their argument, whether or not they personally support it.
3. Have students select 4 or 5 members from their group to debate.
4. Remember this is an exercise in which there are no right or wrong answers.
5. The issues need to be discussed rationally by all members of the class.
6. The discussion will proceed in an orderly and respectful manner.
7. At the end of the debate, the audience will vote and express society's current view on your topic.

Guidelines for a Class Debate

Below is a suggested format for the debate you plan to hold.

- 10 minutes of pro presentation.
- 10 minutes of con presentation.
- 5 minutes of pro rebuttal.
- 5 minutes of con rebuttal.
- Audience questions.
- Audience voting.

Conclusion:

Discuss the pros and cons of both arguments and have the students vote on which

one they support. It is important that they realize there is always more than one side to an argument.

Suggested Reading:

1. ***Alejandro's Gift*** by Richard E. Albert. A lonely man living in the desert builds an oasis to attract the desert animals around him. Inspires children's appreciation for the desert's beauty.
2. ***Desert Voices*** by Byrd Baylor, Peter Parnall. Readers are given messages about the beautiful desert and its animals through text and illustrations.
3. ***Draw Desert Animals*** by Doug DuBosque. Inspires creative kids to draw animals like the ones they see in Desert Discovery.
4. ***How Jackrabbit Got His Very Long Ears*** by Heather Irbinskas. Jackrabbit learns about the traits of many different animals in the desert and how they use them
5. ***Keepers of the Animals: Native American Stories and Wildlife Activities for Children*** by Joseph Bruchac, Michael J. Caduto. A rich collection of uplifting Native American stories and creative nature activities.
6. ***Listen to the Desert/Oye al Desierto*** by Pat Mora. A very simple text, with each line repeated twice in English plus twice in Spanish, becomes a rhythmic, lyrical bilingual chant suggesting the onomatopoeic powers of both tongues.
7. ***The Desert Is Theirs*** by Byrd Baylor. This beautifully illustrated 1976 Caldecott Honor Book depicts animal life and adaptations in the desert.
8. ***Voices from the Wild*** by David Bouchard. This winner of a 1997 Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award features poems about how animals use their senses.