



## Theme: Animals (Grades 6-8)

### Post-Visit Activity #2 Captivity or Into the Wild?

#### Overview:

People have been debating the question for years: Should animals be held captive for educational purposes, or should they be allowed to live in their natural habitat? Students were able to experience both at the Springs Preserve by seeing animals in the wild and in captivity.

#### Objectives:

- Student will form an opinion about the given topic and create arguments in support of their opinion.
- Students will write an opinion paper.

#### Activity:

1. Pose the question to students “Should animals be held captive for educational purposes, or should they be allowed to live in their natural habitat?”
2. Discuss this as a class for 10 to 15 minutes, allowing students to share their opinions and reasons. On the board, you may want to write the question and reasons supporting each position that students give.
3. Remind students that they saw animals in captivity and in the wild at the Springs Preserve. What were their feelings when seeing these animals in captivity? What about in the wild?
4. Have students form an opinion about the topic, and write a short paper (2-3 pages) supporting their opinion. Students can choose to write the paper from the point of view of a wild animal, a captive animal, or themselves.
5. After students have completed their papers, have students volunteer to present their opinions and reasons. Did anyone struggle to form an opinion? Did anyone change their opinion from the initial class discussion? Would anyone like to change their opinion now after hearing opinions from their classmates?