

so what?

Saving our world's habitats & animals together!

Age 7-11 Teaching Pack



Cheetah

So What?

About Us

The future of some of the world's most captivating animals is hanging in the balance! - So What? The mountain gorilla's habitat is being encroached upon by an ever-increasing human population! - So What? The tiger is being hunted to supply high value products such as skins, bones, tonics and meat! - So What? The lion's dwindling habitat has led to most of its populations becoming too small and isolated from one another! - So What?

So What? (Saving our world's habitats & animals together) is the UK based educational website that aims to bring wildlife conservation into the classroom. The purpose of So What? is to encourage more schools and teachers to run So What? clubs, or challenge their students to complete a So What? conservation research topic, all in order to help young people to learn more about the conservation of some of the world's most threatened animals.

The purpose of So What? is simple: to make it easier for schools and teachers to inspire a future generation of wildlife conservationists. A future generation which will not reply "So What?" when faced with the struggles of modern day conservation, but instead be dedicated to saving our world's habitats and animals together.

Matthew Payne

So What?

Website: <http://www.sowhatuk.com>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/SoWhatUK>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/#!/SoWhat_UK

so what?

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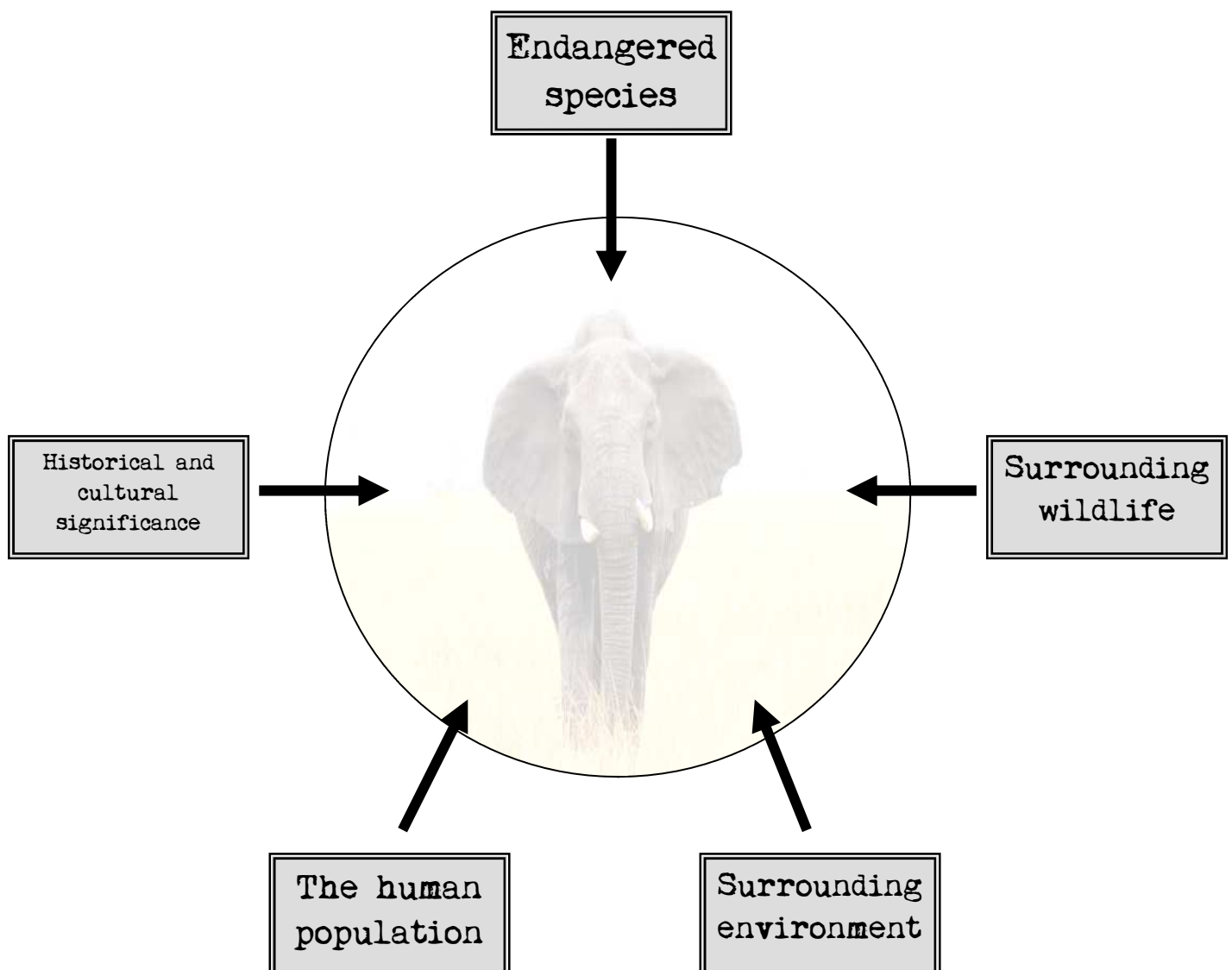
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so what?

Education Model

The So What? age 7-11 Education Model illustrates the holistic approach to conservation which the age 7-11 teaching packs take. The objective of the Education Model is to ensure that children taking part in the sessions learn about every issue a conservationist must consider when trying to preserve a threatened animal.



so what?

Session Titles

Endangered
species



What is a cheetah?

Surrounding
wildlife



Which other wildlife does
the cheetah live alongside?

Surrounding
habitat



Where does the cheetah
live?

The human
population



What is the cheetah's
relationship with people?

Historical and
cultural
significance



A Zulu traditional story:
Why the Cheetah's Cheeks are
Stained

Developing own
conservation
resource



How can we help?

Self evaluation



How did we do?

Session Objective Overview

Endangered
species



I can research factual
information about cheetahs.

Surrounding
wildlife



I know which wildlife cheetahs live
alongside.
I can classify animals in groups.

Surrounding
habitat



I know which environments cheetahs
live in.
I know how cheetahs are adapted to
their environments.

The human
population



I understand the relationship between
cheetahs and the surrounding human
population.
I can give my opinion clearly.
I can listen to and challenge the view
of others.

Historical and
cultural
significance



I can recount a traditional
story.

Developing own
conservation
resource



I can design and create my own
conservation advert as part of a group.
I can work effectively as part of a
group.
I can clearly explain the reasons behind
my choices.
I can present my advert clearly.

Self evaluation



I can critically evaluate the
effectiveness of my own conservation
advert.
I can make realistic suggestions about
how I could improve my advert.

so what?

Curriculum Links

Endangered
species



Literacy, ICT and science

Surrounding
wildlife



Numeracy, ICT and
science

Surrounding
habitat



Geography and science

The human
population



Speaking and listening

Historical and
cultural
significance



History and literacy

Developing own
conservation
resource



PSHE and depending on
the activity (E.g. T-shirt
design would be linked to
art)

Self evaluation



PSHE and literacy

What is a cheetah?



Session 1

What is a cheetah?

Session objective:

I can research factual information about cheetahs.

Session opener:

For 3-5 minutes, get the children to note down everything they know about cheetahs on a sheet. It is important that this sheet is kept so it can be used at the end of these sessions to assess the impact of the So What? teaching pack.

Session introduction:

Share the children's facts from the session opener and mind map their findings on a interactive whiteboard (IWB).

Explain that today they are going to be researching facts about wild cheetahs.

In mixed ability pairings, ask the children to generate three questions they want to answer about cheetahs.

Less able or special needs children (SEN) may require teacher support. You may wish to challenge your more able children by asking them to come up with more questions, focusing particularly on

the cheetah's anatomy and how it is built for speed.

Before researching, share questions as a class and note down good examples on the IWB, coloured paper or post—its. The questions could also be placed up on a display wall.

Mixed ability group work:

In mixed ability pairs, children should use laptops, or any available books, to research the answers to their questions. A list of recommended websites and books can be found in the resources section on the So What? website. If you do not have sufficient internet access, then you may wish to download facts for your children to read prior to this session from our list of recommended websites.

Challenge:

You may wish to challenge your pupils further by showing them a picture of a cheetah's claws and asking the pupils to research how these claws are different from other cats, and how does this difference help cheetahs run faster? (A cheetah's claws help it maintain traction at high speeds)

Session 1

What is a cheetah?

Using A3 pieces of plain paper, children can note down the facts and answers they find through their research. Again, these sheets could be put up on a display after the session.

You also may wish to model how to make good notes from research prior to the children starting this activity.

For the mixed ability work, teacher support may be required to support the research and note taking of less able or SEN children. Own session outcomes regarding the number of facts researched should be set for this activity. These outcomes should depend on the ability of the children and the time available for research.

Encourage the children to add illustrations, but ensure that they label these clearly.

Extension activity:

If some groups finish early, show them a picture of a king cheetah on the internet (You can find one in the resource section on page 34). Do not tell the children the cat's name, just ask them tell you the obvious differences from a 'normal' cheetah and challenge

the children to use the internet to find out the mysterious cat's name and list further facts about it.

End of session review:

To assess the children's achievement, ask each group to share with another group on their table their facts about cheetahs, and if applicable, king cheetahs. Focus on how the cheetah is adapted for high speed. After this, ask the children to share with the class a group/ or individual, who they think has achieved today's objective and why.

Try to reinforce the main threats facing cheetahs (the children will hopefully have researched this anyway).

- Competition with larger predators over prey.
- Local diseases.
- Loss and fragmentation of habitat due to an ever-increasing human population.
- Loss of prey due to hunting and over-grazing of farmland.
- Hunting and poaching.
- Conflict with farmers over livestock.

Which other wildlife
does the cheetah live
alongside?



Session 2

Which other wildlife does the cheetah live alongside?

Session objectives:

I know which other wildlife cheetahs live alongside.

I can classify animals in groups.

Session opener:

In talk partners, ask the children to list as many of the facts that they can remember from the last session about cheetahs. Mind map the facts on a IWB.

Session introduction:

Tell the class that in order to preserve a threatened animal such as the cheetah, you must always consider the surrounding wildlife. Discuss as a class why they think this is important.

Explain that today the children are going to research the different types of wildlife that live in the same environments as the cheetah.

Show the class the information collection sheet (from the resource section on page 35). Explain that they will be using this sheet to classify the animals they are researching. The sheet has a box for consumers, producers, cheetah prey and not cheetah prey.

Recap or explain to the class what consumers and producers are. (Consumers eat other organisms, producers make their own food and are food sources for other organisms). Quickly, model and share as a whole class how to fill in the sheet for a cheetah, elephant and quiver tree.

Time challenge (10-15 minutes):

In pairs, the children should use the internet to find as many names as they can of animals that live alongside cheetahs in Africa or in Iran. The children must correctly classify the animals on their sheet. The pair with the most animals wins.

Show a larger version on the IWB and quickly fill in a selection of the children's findings.

Mixed ability paired work:

Children to use the internet to research facts and create a fact file either as a pair, or individually if they would rather, detailing facts about one of the animals that lives alongside the cheetah.

session 2

Which other wildlife does the cheetah live alongside?

Must achieve:

To have at least four different sections in their fact file and a labelled diagram.

Should achieve:

To have at least five different sections in their fact file and a labelled diagram.

Could achieve:

To have at least five different sections in their fact file, a labelled diagram and a clear introduction and conclusion.

Teacher support should be focussed on the less able or SEN children who are working with other pupils.

Extension activity:

What is your chosen animal's relationship with the cheetah? Is it hunted by the cheetah or does it pose a threat to the cheetah? How is it different to the cheetah? Children to add this information to their fact file.

End of session review:

Share fact files with each other and discuss who has achieved the session objectives. Focus on the fact that in order to save the cheetah, you must understand its relationship with the

animals it lives alongside, as they may be just as important to its survival. In 1930, the Russian cheetah became extinct primarily because its main prey was hunted into extinction and therefore the cheetahs had nothing left to hunt.

Where does the cheetah live?



Session 3

Where does the cheetah live?

Session objectives:

I know which environments cheetahs live in.

I know how cheetahs have adapted to their environments.

Session opener:

Reinforce what an animal needs to live in an area. What do they think the cheetah needs? Children to discuss in talk partners. List their ideas on the IWB.

Session introduction:

Tell the children that today they are going to learn where cheetahs live and why they are adapted to live in these habitats and not others.

Using the map on the IUCN website (<http://maps.iucnredlist.org/map.html?id=219>), show the class the current range of the cheetah throughout Africa and Asia.

Focus on populations which are fragmented from others. Ask the children what they think the problem with this is? Discuss how this is important for the conservation of species.

If a population is isolated, it limits the animals' genetic diversity. Family members start breeding; this can result in lowered genetic diversity and lead to them being susceptible to disease and/or physical defects.

Take the time to show the 23 countries which the cheetah currently lives in and the locations of these countries in relation to each other and the UK. Ask the children how they might travel there from the UK as well as between each country. It should also be pointed out that in 1900, over 100,000 cheetahs lived in over 44 countries, where as now between 7,000 and 10,000 cheetahs live in 23 countries. Also, the cheetah is extinct in 25 countries and in a possible further 13. Its African range has decreased by 77% and the global cheetah population has been reduced by 30% over the last two decades.

Paired ability group work:

In talk partners, ask the children to discuss what they think a cheetah needs to live in an area. Note down the children's suggestions on a IWB.

Session 3

Where does the cheetah live?

Give the children, depending on ability, a number of habitat images and descriptions from around the world which can be found in the resource section starting from page 36.

Tell the children their challenge is to read the description for each habitat and decide whether they think a cheetah could live there.

Once they have made a decision for each habitat, they must write down or draw their reasoning, clearly explaining why a cheetah may or may not live in that habitat.

Less able and SEN:

To examine four habitats and decide as a group, with teacher support.

Able:

To examine six habitats and give reasons for their decisions.

More able:

To examine eight habitats and give reasons for their decisions.

Extension activity:

Once completed, extend your pupils by asking them to choose an

animal they think could live in each of the ten habitats and explain their choices.

End of session review:

As a whole class, decide which location/s cheetahs live in and allow the children to explain their choices. The cheetah can actually live in tropical grasslands, scrubland, dry forests, savannah woodland and semi-deserts.

Explain that cheetahs also live in Iran: this is a semi-desert environment where prey like gazelle, sheep and goats are still available. If possible, you may wish to show a map of the Kavir Desert and the Balochistan area on an IWB.

Reinforce that the loss of habitat is one of the main threats facing the majority of threatened animals from around the world. For any species to thrive, we must conserve its habitat and fully understand how it supports the local wildlife population.

What is the cheetah's relationship with people?



Session 4

What is the cheetah's relationship with people?

Session objectives:

I understand the relationship between cheetahs and the surrounding human population.

I can give my opinion clearly.

I can listen to and challenge the view of others.

Session opener:

Tell the children that the cheetah is classified as a 'vulnerable' species.

Discuss with the class what they think this means and can they remember why the cheetah is 'vulnerable.'

Session introduction:

Tell the class that cheetahs are a 'vulnerable' species that faces a number of threats to its survival in the wild, which are as follows:

- Competition with larger predators over prey.
- Local diseases.
- Loss and fragmentation of habitat due to an ever-increasing human population.
- Loss of prey due to hunting and over-grazing of farmland.
- Hunting.
- Conflict with farmers over livestock.

The final reason is a particularly

common reason for the decreasing cheetah population. With more and more farms being created due to the ever-increasing global population, this is surely going to continue to be a common threat to the cheetah.

Conscience alley drama activity:

Imagine you are a farmer and you believe that some of your cattle have been killed by a cheetah. Ask the class to consider what do they think they would do if they were in the position of the farmer. Carry out the conscience alley activity.

Note:

(Conscience alley is a drama activity where one individual, acting as the farmer, stands at the end of two parallel lines of children, who face one another. The farmer walks down the alley, listening to the advice from every child).

After this activity, explain to the class that a lot of farmers regard cheetahs as vermin, or a nuisance, which can cost them a lot of money. Therefore, cheetahs who kill, or are believed to have killed livestock, are sometimes snared, trapped or shot on sight.

Session 4

What is the cheetah's relationship with people?

Tell the class that in Namibia, where 90% of the world's largest population of cheetahs live on farmlands, cheetahs are often persecuted by farmers or ranchers. However, it is believed that cheetahs are only responsible for 3% of all livestock losses to predators in Namibia, despite the majority of the population living on farmlands.

Whole class debate:

Is it right for farmers to snare, trap or shoot on sight cheetahs that they believe to have killed their livestock? Split the class into two halves. One side is to argue in favour of the farmers and the other side is to argue against the farmers. For less able or SEN children, arguing against the farmers is often an easier concept to understand so it may be better to allow them to join that side. Allow the class sufficient time to formulate their arguments then move onto the debate, with the teacher acting as the chair.

End of session review:

After the debate, allow the children to vote for who they think is right. Have three areas (in favour, against and undecided) around the classroom for the children to move towards in order

to indicate their vote. After a countdown, ask the children to move towards the correct area to indicate their vote. Discuss the results as a whole class and the message they portray. Hopefully the debate will have shown that there is no clear answer when trying to manage the interests of both threatened animals and local communities.

Reinforce with the children that in order to conserve any threatened animal, we must understand the impact both local and global human populations have upon its survival. It is imperative that conservationists find a way to support the requirements of not only a threatened animal, such as the cheetah, but also the local human population that lives alongside it every day.

A Zulu traditional story: Why the Cheetah's Cheeks are Stained



Session 5

A Zulu traditional story: Why the Cheetah's Cheeks are Stained

Session objective:

I can recount a traditional story accurately.

Session opener:

Discuss what we mean by historical and cultural significance. How can an animal be culturally significant? Do they know of any animals which have been significant to people in the past? For example, cats and the Egyptians.

Session introduction:

Give the children a brief overview of the history of the cheetah. The cheetah evolved in Africa around 8 million years ago, before migrating to Asia. The cheetah, as we know it, most likely evolved around 200,000 years ago. Today's cheetahs are descendants of but a few individuals after the species suffered a severe bottleneck, or near extinction, around 10,000 to 12,000 years ago. The population grew back steadily, but now has little genetic diversity which makes them susceptible to disease.

The name cheetah originated from the Hindi word "chita," meaning "the spotted one," and was first classified by Schreber in 1776.

Since the time of Christ, cheetahs have been used for hunting and this carried on, primarily in the Asia, until as late as the 1980s, with African cheetahs often being imported due to the rarity of the Asiatic cheetah. The Mughal emperors, in the 16th to 18th centuries, were particularly fond of using the cheetah for hunting. Most notably, Akbar the Great, who ruled from 1556 to 1605, was fascinated with cheetahs. In addition to at one time having 1,000 cheetahs in his hunting stables, he was said to have owned over 9,000 cheetahs during his 50 year reign.

In 1900, there were 100,000 cheetahs living in 44 countries globally. Now, there are between 7,000 to 10,000 cheetahs living in 23 countries. They are extinct in 25, and possibly in a further 13. The global population has declined by 30% over the last 20 years and cheetahs have lost 77% of their African range.

The Zulu traditional story:

Read the Zulu tradition story, "Why the Cheetah's Cheeks are Stained" together with the children. This can be given out on paper or shown on an IWB. A copy of the story can be found in the

Session 5

A Zulu traditional story: Why the Cheetah's Cheeks are Stained

resource section on page 41

Afterwards, ask the children to discuss the lessons behind this traditional tale and why members of the Zulu tribe would retell this story to one another.

The story "Why the Cheetah's Cheeks are Stained" which was composed by the African tribe known as the Zulu, shows many cultural beliefs that they followed. For example, this story demonstrated that the Zulu have traditions with regards to hunting, which must be followed by each member of the tribe. In their minds, there is the traditional way and then there is the wrong way of doing things. This is shown when the lazy hunter is kicked out of the tribe for not only theft, but also for breaking the tradition of the tribe by not hunting with his own personal strength and skill; as "any other way of hunting was surely a dishonour." This traditional story also shows that the Zulu often explain what they see in nature by incorporating those experiences in a traditional story (or folktale), and retelling it time and time again. In this particular story for example, the Zulu try to give meaning to why a cheetah's cheeks have black

streaks on them. The Zulu say that the mother cheetah cried for so long while her cubs were missing, that her tears stained her face forever and "today the cheetah wears the tear stains as a reminder to the hunters" that it is only honourable to hunt in the traditional "Zulu" way. While the Zulu tribe have many cultural traditions that are often sometimes detailed in traditional stories, this tribe chose a way of living that was both humble and honourable; and it is believed that people today could still benefit from their values, beliefs and their willingness to help one another.

(Adapted from: <http://zulugmb.wikispaces.com/Cultural+Perspective+of+Why+the+Cheetah's+Cheeks+are+Stained>)

Independent and group work:

Less able:

Using the comic strip from the resource section on page 42, children can retell the story of "Why the Cheetah's Cheeks are Stained" by completing seven boxes. They can use both drawings and speech bubbles to aid their recounts.

session 5

A Zulu traditional story: Why the Cheetah's Cheeks are Stained

The sequence of events may need jotting down on a white board as a reference.

Able:

Children to work in groups of 4 and by using freeze framing, retell the story of "Why the Cheetah's Cheeks are Stained". Encourage the children to be as creative as possible. This could be by letting them recount the story in a different format, e.g. as a news report. Allow the groups time to plan and practise their freeze framing. Use a camera to record each group's performance and if possible, encourage any other groups watching to assess the performing group's freeze frames.

More able:

Children write a diary entry, pretending to be a character from the story; they could be the hunter, the old man or even the mother cheetah. Challenge the children to use descriptive language, complex sentence structures and punctuation. Children to use also write a clear introduction and conclusion to their tale.

Teacher to support and possibly scribe for any SEN pupils if needed.

Extension:

Ask the children to plan, and if there is time also write, their own traditional Zulu story about the cheetah and how it got its tear stains. Get the children to think about message behind their story.

End of session review:

As a whole class, watch the photographs of the able group's freeze framing and using 2 stars and a wish, ask the children to assess their performance. Then, allow children from all ability groups to share their diaries and comic strips with the rest of the class.

How can we help save the cheetah?



session 6

How can we help save the cheetah?

Session objectives:

I can design and create my own conservation advert as part of a group.

I can work effectively as part of a group.

Session opener:

Using talk partners, ask the children to discuss the key features of working well as a group. Create a set of rules for working well as a group on a A3 piece of paper. Tell the children that these are the rules they must abide when working as part of a group during the next 3 sessions.

Session introduction:

Tell the children that after learning about the cheetah over the last few weeks, they are now going to create their own creative conservation advertisement, aimed at raising awareness about the cheetah and its conservation status. Explain that conservation charities often use magazine adverts, billboards, t-shirts, posters etc to raise awareness about the different animals they work hard to preserve.

In talk partners, ask the children to recap the reasons for why cheetah

populations in both Africa and Asia are declining. After a few minutes, feedback the reasons as a class and note these down on the IWB.

Tell the class that they are going to work in groups of two, three or four to plan, develop and perform or present their own conservation advert over the next three sessions. Allow the children as a whole to decide the size of their groups. Also, it is completely fine if a child wishes to work independently for this activity.

Note:

This activity can be carried out in anyway that fits the ability of the children, the resources within the school or the preference of the teacher.

The activity can be structured by giving the whole group a single focus and leaving it up to them how they design it. For example, you may wish the whole class to create a t-shirt. However, it can also be more unstructured by giving the children their own choice to design a conservation advert in any medium.

session 6

How can we help save the cheetah?

For example, one group may choose to create a t-shirt, while another group might create an television advert using Windows Moviemaker. While the following session in the teaching pack will plan for the last idea (unstructured), they can easily be adapted to suit a more structured idea.

Possible ideas for creating a conservation advert:

T-shirt, webpage, PowerPoint, video recorded advert, photo story, leaflet, game, song, poem, fact file, story, poster, dramatic performance, radio advert, choral performance, play script, persuasive letter.

Mixed ability group work:

Explain that before any wildlife conservation charity produces any type of advertisement, it always plans and designs it in detail before officially releasing it for the public to see.

In their groups, give the children the rest of the session to draw or write up a presentable plan or design for their resource.

You may choose to model how you wish the class to set out their design if you have a particular preference. Remind the groups that they should also list the materials they will need so they can be organised for the next session.

Teachers should roam the class, listening to ideas and highlighting good practice as well as support those children who may find this level of creativity difficult.

End of session review:

Allow the groups to share their designs with the rest of the class. Encourage the other groups to assess their ideas by commenting on good aspects of the design, whilst also making recommendations. If there is time, you may wish to give the groups time to amend their designs after this part of the session.

You may also want to ask the children to nominate people who they feel abided by the class rules of working as a group.

session 7

How can we help save the cheetah?

Session objectives:

I can design and create my own conservation advert as part of a group.

I can work effectively as part of a group.

Session opener:

Use this time to organise the class in their appropriate groups and hand out equipment. You may also want to reinforce the rules for working as part of a group again.

Session introduction:

Tell the class that they have this session to create their conservation advert. Recap with the class as a whole what they have to do to work effectively as a group.

You may wish to use this time to model how to use any equipment or how to create an advert if you have chosen to do the same as a whole class, e.g how to paint accurately onto a t-shirt.

Before the groups begin, remind them of the importance of using their design to help guide their work.

Mixed ability group work:

The children are to work in their groups from the last session to create their advert.

Again, teacher support should be to groups as required.

End of session review:

Ask the class to suggest children from their groups who they think achieved today's objective of working well in their group.

Encourage the children to share their reasons for their choices clearly.

Session 8

How can we help save the cheetah?

Session objectives:

I can present my advert clearly.

I can explain the reasons behind my choices clearly.

Session opener:

Cheetah Quiz Challenge! Get each child to write a question to test another's knowledge on cheetahs. Once all of the children are ready, the children wander round the classroom to some music, until the teacher presses pause. The children pair up with the child closest to them. The pair then ask each other their questions. If both children answer correctly, they can swap their questions. If not, they have to keep their questions. The teacher should give them 1 minute to do this, then play music to get the children to move around the classroom once again. Press pause and repeat. Ask the children to always find a different partner to their last.

Session introduction:

With the help of the class, move all the tables and chairs to the back of the class to create a large area.

Sit the class down in their groups, leaving space at the front of the

classroom for the a single group to perform or present their advert.

Take the time to establish, as a class, the rules for how the audience should act whilst groups are performing or presenting. These suggestions could be noted down on a IWB as a constant reminder if possible.

After this, ask the class what they think they might want to know from each group when they present their advert (this is not required if the advert is a performance), E.g. How was it made? What materials were used? Etc. Note down these suggestions on the IWB or a large piece of paper for the groups to refer back to.

Mixed ability group work:

Allow each group to come to the front of the class and perform or present their advert. After each group has finished, allow the audience an opportunity to ask any questions they may have. Then, after any questions, ask the class to use 2 stars and a wish, or any alternative assessment method, to assess a group's advert.

session 8

How can we help save the cheetah?

(2 stars and a wish is an assessment technique where children say two aspects they liked about a resource, and a single aspect they think could have been improved for next time).

End of session review:

After each group has performed, ask the class which adverts they liked and encourage them to explain their choices clearly.

How did we do?



session 9

How did we do?

Session objectives:

I can critically evaluate the effectiveness of my own conservation advert.

I can make realistic suggestions about how I could improve my advert.

Session opener:

Ask the class what they think it means to critically evaluate a piece of work. Allow the children to share their ideas and ensure they understand what a critical evaluation is.

Session introduction:

Explain that after a conservation charity has designed, produced and presented or performed their advert, they reflect back on their progress. This allows them to remember and celebrate good techniques or ideas they had used as well as understanding why any mistakes were made to ensure they don't happen again.

Take this time to recap on the evaluations at the end of the last session again as a class. Model how to fill in the evaluation sheet from the resource file on pages 43 or 44, showing how to fill in the sheet

Independent work:

Less able:

As a table, give each pupil evaluation sheet A and work through each question as a group. Get a child to read out a question, then discuss possible answers as a table. Give children time to complete it, then move on to the next question.

Middle ability:

Children to complete evaluation sheet A independently and critically evaluate their performance.

More able:

Give children evaluation sheet B. Children to complete the sheet independently, with the added challenge for them to write how they could use some of the skills they have learnt in the future at school or at home.

Extension:

If children have completed the activity above, allow them to start writing up basic instructions for how they created their advert. This can be done using drawings with basic instructions for less able pupils, up to a set of full instructions for G and T pupils.

session 9

How did we do?

End of session review:

Allow the children the time to share their evaluations with the rest of the class. Focus on any common problems each group had and discuss how could these be avoided in the future.

Ask the children to note down everything they now know about cheetahs on a sheet. The results from this can be analysed in comparison to the same exercise which was carried out in session 1. This will give you an indication of the impact of this So What? teaching pack.

Teaching pack resources



session 1

A king cheetah



session 2

Wildlife sheet

	Producers	Consumers
Cheetah prey		
Not cheetah prey		

session 3

Tropical grasslands



Tropical grasslands include the open grasslands often associated with Africa, as well as savannah-type grasslands in Nepal, Australia, India and the Americas. Tropical grasslands have drought resistant shrubs and grasses, and have trees (such as the acacia tree) dotted throughout them. The seasons are dry and wet. Tropical grasslands have a large supply of food which comes alive in the wet season. This large supply of food attracts large herds of grazing animals, such as the wildebeest, Thompson gazelle and impala. These herds attract large predators such as the lion and leopard.

session 3

Scrubland



Scrublands are areas that are dry and hot during the summer, but saved from becoming deserts by cool, moist winters. In these areas, some trees grow, such as oaks, pines, and cypresses, but they rarely get very large due to there not being enough water to do so. Scrub is a changing habitat which is in the process of transforming from open ground to woodland. It is attractive to many species of wildlife such as springboks, impalas and hares. This habitat has a mix of open land and shrubs or trees. These groups of shrubs and trees may exist in groups or be dotted across a site. These groups provide good cover for predators and the open spaces next to them provide enough room for some predators to use their speed to catch prey.

session 3

Dry forest



Dry forests occur in climates that are warm year-round, and may receive several hundred centimetres of rain per year. They have long dry seasons which last several months and do vary with location. These seasonal droughts have great impact on all living things in the forest. Dry forests are home to a wide variety of wildlife including monkeys, deer, large cats, parrots and various rodents, and ground walking birds. The absence of precipitation during a prolonged portion of the year is what produces a true dry forest. A dry forest is an ecosystem type characterised by plants and animals possessing specific adaptations to survive the dry season. Dry forests are typically found in very warm regions in the tropics, where the mean annual temperature is greater than 17C, and where rainfall is in the range of 250 to 2000 mm per year.

session 3

Savannah woodland



Savannah woodlands are characterised by a ground covered by a range of grasses, along with some patches of trees (Savannahs are open canopied habitats, in-between grasslands and forests). The vegetation is very dense, comprising of thorn scrub and woodland. There are many animals which move on the ground, and the grass cover attracts grazing animals such as springbok and impala, which in turn attracts predators. If there is little or no rain, a desert may be formed. When there is a lot of rain it leads to rainforests. Rainfall now and again leads to the formation of grasslands and savannahs.

Session 3

Semi-desert



A desert, or semi-desert, describes any area that receives less than 250mm of rainfall in a single year. Deserts cover at least 1/5 of the Earth's surface. Some deserts are endless 'seas of sands' where the wind piles sand into large dunes. Other deserts may be flat, stony plains, or have rugged, rocky hills and mountains. Because there is so little water, deserts are bare landscapes with few plants or animals. Deserts appear to be dead landscapes. In fact, they harbour animals and plants that are specially adapted to the harsh, dry conditions. Most of the plants remain dormant until a rare downpour of rain. Then short, wiry grasses and delicate flowers spring up, growing and flowering quickly before the desert dries up again. After a good shower of rain, the desert becomes green for a brief time and pulsates with life. Animals and plants often have to survive extremely hot days and bitterly cold nights when the temperature decreases rapidly. Deserts may appear to have very little life in them, but on closer inspection they can often be rich in life. There are many ground dwelling animals such as a range of rat species, shrews, mongooses and springbok.

Session 3

Polar region



Polar Regions can be found at the planet's northern and southern tips. The core of the Arctic is a great ocean - the Arctic Ocean - parts of which are covered all year round by ice that drifts about the North Pole. The Arctic Ocean has many thousands of big and small islands and is almost surrounded by land: the northern parts of Europe, Asia and North America. The Antarctic is an isolated continent surrounding the South Pole. Most of Antarctica's land lies beneath ice and snow almost 2km thick. It has high mountains and glaciers and is the coldest, driest and windiest continent on Earth. These regions are very cold: the coldest temperature ever known on earth (-89°C or -129°F) was recorded in Antarctica. The average winter temperature in the Arctic is about -30°C. The only plants that grow here are specialist forms of cold-loving algae that grow on the surface of snow. Only animals that do not rely on vegetation, such as penguins, seals and polar bears, are able to live here. In addition to this, walruses and arctic foxes also live here.

Session 3

Coastal



Coastal cliffs are the rock land edges that face the sea. These are complex and diverse habitats that lie above the water line, where exposure to salty spray, wind, sun and rain all play their part as does the type of rock. A range of flowers flourish and colourful lichens coat the rocks. Cliff tops make important nesting places for seabirds and each species has its own requirements: from ledges for guillemots and kittiwakes to grassy slopes that puffins can burrow in. Bats, birds, lizards and buzzing insects are also found. Predators may have some cover to help them hunt.

Session 3

Mountains



Mountains are a tough place of life in comparisons to lowland environments, due to their lower temperatures and harsher weather conditions. At the highest point there is less oxygen and carbon dioxide in the air, making it difficult for both animals and plants to live. Solids are thin or non-existent on steep mountain slopes, which inhibits the growth of plants. The uppermost slopes of the highest peaks may be devoid of plant-life. Steep cliffs and rocky services make movement often difficult, and predators require excellent balance to hunt here. Sheep, ibex, cats, hares and other animals can exist in these environments.

session 3

Tropical rainforest



Rainforest are the most vital habitats on the planet and are characterised by high rainfall. They only cover 6% of the Earth across the tropical regions, but they contain more than half of its plant and animal species. Rainforests are home to gigantic trees, colourful birds, millions of brightly hued insects, and a variety of fascinating mammals. There are 3 main regions of tropical rainforest: in Central and South America, in West and Central Africa, and in Southeast Asia. Fast-growing trees form a thick canopy that restricts much sunlight reaching the forest floor, therefore hampering undergrowth. Many rainforest trees have dark green, often leathery, leaves which taper sharply so that water drains quickly from the surface. The canopy area is where the majority of wildlife exists, particularly a range of primates, yet some terrestrial animals do exist such as a various cats which do still take advantage of trees.

session 3

Urban



Urban environments are areas dominated by human activities and human constructions. These include towns, cities, and associated landscapes, such as landfill sites. It can almost be described as a grouping of other habitats where buildings make artificial cliffs, sewers and drains act as waterways, and parks and gardens act as forests and meadows. Animals which have adapted to the urban environment are tolerant of the light and noise generated by human and their activities. Animals also take advantage of the heat and the abundant source of food on offer. Urban areas are known to attract foxes, reptiles, bats, badgers, rabbits, humans, penguins and baboons in South Africa. There are even reports of leopards roaming areas in cities in Kenya and Namibia.

session 5

A Zulu traditional story: Why the Cheetah's Cheeks are Stained

Long ago a wicked and lazy hunter was sitting under a tree. He was thinking that it was too hot to be bothered with the hard task of stalking prey through the bushes. Below him, in the clearing on the grassy plains, there were some fat springbok grazing. But this hunter couldn't be bothered, so lazy was he! He gazed at the herd, wishing that he could have the meat without the work, when suddenly he noticed a movement to the left of the buck. It was a female cheetah seeking food. Keeping downwind of the herd, she moved closer and closer to them. She singled out a springbok who had foolishly wandered away from the rest. Suddenly, she gathered her long legs under her and sprang forward. With great speed she came upon the springbok and brought it down. Startled, the rest of the herd raced away as the cheetah quickly killed her prey.

The hunter watched as the cheetah dragged her prize to some shade on the edge of the clearing. There three beautiful cheetah cubs were waiting for her. The lazy hunter was filled with envy for the cubs and wished that he could have such a good hunter to provide for him. Imagine dining on delicious meat every day without having to do the actual hunting! Then he had a wicked idea. He decided that he would steal one of the cheetah cubs and train it to hunt for him. He decided to wait until the mother cheetah went to the waterhole late in the afternoon to make his move.

When the sun began to set, the cheetah left her cubs concealed in a bush and set off to the waterhole. Quickly the hunter grabbed his spear and trotted down to the bushes where the cubs were hidden. There he found the three cubs, still too young to be frightened of him or to run away. He first chose one, then decided upon another, and then changed his mind again. Finally he stole them all, thinking to himself that three cheetahs would undoubtedly be better than one. When their mother returned half-an-hour later, and found her babies gone, she was broken-hearted. The poor mother cheetah cried and cried until her tears made dark stains down her cheeks. She wept all night and into the next day. She cried so loudly that she was heard by an old man who came to see what the noise was all about.

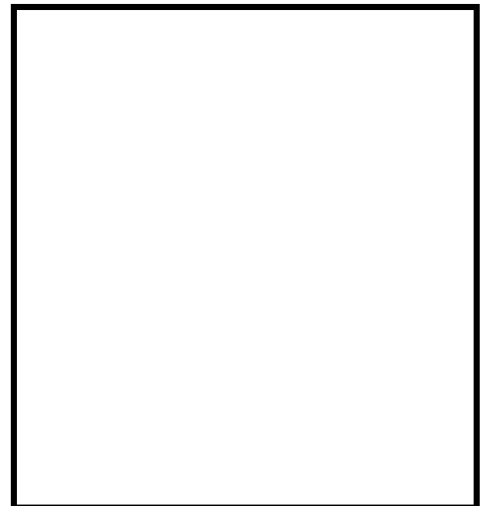
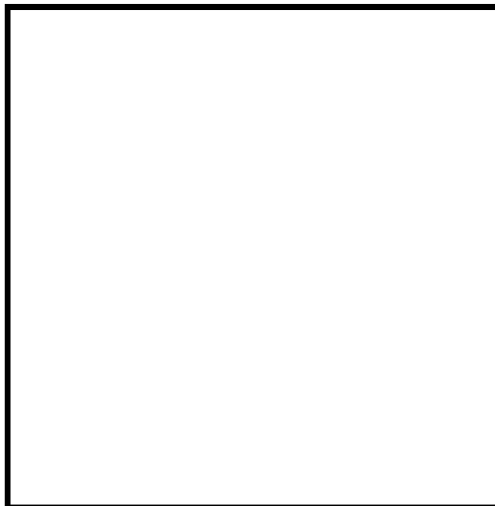
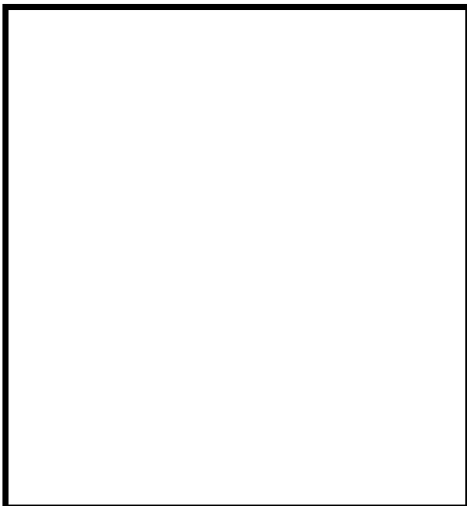
Now this old man was wise and knew the ways of the animals. When he discovered what the wicked hunter had done, he became very angry. The lazy hunter was not only a thief, but he had broken the traditions of the tribe. Everyone knew that a hunter must use only his own strength and skill. Any other way of hunting was surely a dishonour.

The old man returned to the village and told the elders what had happened. The villagers became angry. They found the lazy hunter and drove him away from the village. The old man took the three cheetah cubs back to their grateful mother. But the long weeping of the mother cheetah stained her face forever. Today, the cheetah wears the tearstains on its face as a reminder to the hunters that it is not honourable to hunt in any other way than that which is traditional.

Adapted from: <http://www.canteach.ca/elementary/africa1.html>

session 5

Why the Cheetah's Cheeks are Stained! Comic strip



session 9

Evaluation sheet A

Give a brief description of your advert

What do you think worked well with your advert?

What would you do differently next time?

List the skills you had to use to create your advert

session 9

Evaluation sheet B

Give a brief description of your advert

What do you think worked well with your advert?

What would you do differently next time?

List the skills you had to use to create your advert

How could you use these skills during school or at home?

Thank you

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- Name and location of your school
- How many children have taken part in the club
- The teaching pack you have chosen to use, for example, the cheetah.

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