



Sustainable Development

Introduction

Sustainable development is defined as 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'. Thus, the goal of sustainable development is to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without transferring problems to people in other parts of the world or compromising the quality of life of future generations.

This activity challenges students to think of ways to address the issues faced by endangered species without compromising the needs of the people who share those parts of the world where wildlife risks extinction.

Development

Using the discussion points in the assembly, endangered species factsheets and secondary sources of information, including news articles and the internet; pull out and list the key factors putting your focus endangered species at risk of extinction.

Group activity

Using secondary resources students collate evidence to support their consideration of ways in which the risk to the chosen endangered species could be reduced without seriously compromising the human activity or the economic subsistence it generates. Each group then presents back their ideas and reasoning to the class. Once all the ideas have been shared you could set up a Radio 4 'Moral Maze' style debate where students argue against one another as to why they have the best solution for the people and animal inhabitants.

As chairperson, the teacher selects a student from each group to form a panel to challenge and respond to the information and ideas presented. This could either be used to present an unbiased ombudsman group for the debate or could actively add to the realism of the issues and ideas raised by supporting specific views of interested or affected parties; e.g. the panel could contain a UN representative, a zoologist, a World Wildlife Fund conservationist, a human rights activist and politicians from the country affected.

Plenary

Using the issue of sustainability, as a real life problem faced across the globe, engages students' curiosity and initiates learning through the development of a personal project that demonstrates their understanding of complex social and

environmental issues. Students should be given opportunity to evaluate their own performance as well as the performance of others, considering:

- how well they worked as a group
- something they found particularly difficult
- something they did well
- the overall coherence of their argument and its presentation/justification.

Where ideas tabled are particularly good you could encourage students to write to an appropriate body to campaign for change.