



SeaWorld/Busch Gardens Geography

9-12 Classroom Activities

Animals in the News

OBJECTIVE

- The student will identify various animals' biographical information.
The student will research various animals using the Internet and literature.

ACTION

1. Explain that each student (or student pair) will review an animal news article from a designated Web site and research further information about the featured animal. They will then present their research and review to the class during a mock Global News Conference.
2. Instruct each student or student pair to visit <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/animals.html> and select an article that they find interesting. Each student will have a different article to review and research.
3. Instruct students to research the following information from their animal news article.
 - Geographic area the article pertains to
 - Animal (subject of the article)
 - Summary of article
 - Article review
 - Animal genus and species (scientific name)
 - Animal range and habitat
 - Animal diet
 - Five fun facts describing the animal's behaviors, adaptations, or population status.
4. Mock Global News Conference—Instruct students to move their desks/tables into a circle or U-shaped configuration. Next, the students should create a name plate for themselves stating their name and the animal subject of the article. Instruct students to place their name plates facing the interior of the circle or U-shape. Lastly, hang or place a large world map on the classroom bulletin board or a separate cork board.
5. Instruct each student to begin their **3 to 5 minute presentation** by identifying the geographic area their article pertains to. Have them place a colored push pin into the corresponding area on the World Map Funsheet. If a specific area is not mentioned the student may identify the geographic range of the animal. Next, students will present their research and review in the following order listed on the card on page 20.

PRESENTATION POINTS CARD

Your presentation should include the following points:

- Article Title
- Article Author(s)
- Animal Subject
- Animal *Genus species*
- Animal Range and Habitat
- Animal Diet
- Five Fun Facts
- Article Summary
- Student Review of Article
- Allow time for Questions

Remember your presentation should be between 3 to 5 minutes.

MATERIALS

Per class:

- Library and/or Internet access
- colored push pins
- large world map or copy of page 21
- cork board or classroom bulletin board

Per student or student pair:

- one copy of Presentation Points Card (left)

