

Managing for Wildlife

Subjects: Biology

Objective(s): Students will research different wildlife species and learn about some of the scientific management techniques used by wildlife biologists.

Material Needs:

None

Activity/Instructions:

1. Have a class discussion about why wildlife populations are sometimes managed by humans. The following reasons should be incorporated into the discussion: to provide hunting opportunities, to save endangered species, to reintroduce species that once lived in an area, to control nuisance wildlife, to regain population balances within disturbed ecosystems.
2. After the discussion, ask the students for names of specific animal species that have been managed in the past or are being managed now. (For example, they may remember hearing about the reintroduction of Bald Eagles in Indiana or River Otters being reintroduced into some Indiana river systems. They may also have heard about White-tail deer herds being managed in some Indiana state parks.)
3. Assign groups of 2 or 3 students to research one of the animal species listed below. Each of these species is being actively managed by wildlife biologists, either in Indiana or elsewhere in the U.S.
4. Each group is responsible for:
 - Gathering basic information about their species such as its biology, natural history, food preferences, how the animal itself fits into the food chain, habitat needs, etc.
 - Discovering how and why the animal is being researched and managed.
 - The results of current management efforts.
5. Once they have compiled their information, have each group report their findings by way of a visual display. The display may take the form of a bulletin board section or poster that includes a picture of the animal, a range map, population numbers, photos of management techniques, basic biology information, any media coverage of the management efforts, and how & why the animal is being managed.
6. If possible have all of the groups set up their displays within the classroom. Then have the groups take turns presenting their findings to the rest of the class.

Endangered / Reintroduced / Nuisance Animal Species

American Alligator	Coyote	Wild Turkey
Bald Eagle	Wolf	Beaver
California Condor	Grizzly Bear	Black-footed Ferret
River Otter	Zebra Mussel	
White-tail Deer	Canada Goose	

** You can also use any animal on your state or federal list of endangered wildlife species*