

Animals in the News



Objective

Students will identify various animals' biographical information.

Materials

- library and/or Internet access
- colored push pins
- large world map or copy of map on page 2
- cork board or classroom bulletin board

Action

1. Explain that each student (or student group) 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 group to visit <http://news.national-geographic.com/news/animals.html> and select an article that they find interesting. Each will have a different article to review and research.
3. Instruct students to research the following information from their 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.