

CLASS 7
INTRODUCTION AND LIST OF RESOURCES

I. Introduction

The seventh class teaches the students about biodiversity, extinction, endangered species, rainforests, sustainable development and some of the legal mechanisms created to protect endangered species. The class also introduces some concepts that are used in the field trip. A PowerPoint presentation is used to teach the class, and a copy of the PowerPoint is included with these materials. The student activity involves role-playing various interest groups in an effort to solve overfishing.

The PowerPoint and outline for the class are very detailed and cover a large amount of information. We have provided a long version of the PowerPoint presentation, and suggest editing it down to 20-30 slides of the materials you would like to present. Even then, familiarity with it is recommended, so that the materials can be covered in time. Likewise, be prepared to cut out sections if the class runs into delays. While the pictures in the PowerPoint usually captivate the students, try to engage them as well by asking questions of the group. Additionally, much of this material can be complex and full of new vocabulary for the students, so be sure to clarify and describe concepts in the simplest way possible.

Originally, the class included a section on coral reefs, which we removed due to time constraints in later versions of the class. However, we have included a set of these older materials, in case others could find them useful or would rather focus on coral reefs for their presentations. These materials are labeled “coral reef extra” in the packet of materials.

The activity has the students role-play different countries in an effort to create a global treaty to address overfishing. Each country has different interests, which the students must present and advocate. The students also offer solutions to the problem. The class should be broken into 4-8 groups (it is not necessary to use all of the players indicated in the outline), with each firm representative assisting one or two groups. Because the problem has several players, make sure the students understand who they are and what they are arguing for. Also, encourage them to brainstorm solutions to the problem. Because it is hard to get unanimity and there are time constraints, we try to find a rough consensus without declaring a formal adoption of one position or another.

For this class, the firm has paid for the protection of an acre of rainforest on behalf of the school. We then present the class with the rain forest certificate at the end of the PowerPoint presentation. We have tried to tie the purchase into the students completion of the homework. While certainly not necessary, it is a way to reinforce that actions can be taken to protect endangered species. We have purchased the acre through the non-profit Rainforest Action, at <http://www.ran.org/give/paa/>.

This class compliments our field trip in that we often see several endangered or protected species during the boat trip (ospreys, great blue herons and canadian geese). Additionally, in the

past we have organized a field trip to the Baltimore aquarium, which related heavily to the issues addressed in this class.

Tips:

- Bring your own equipment for showing the PowerPoint.
- Purchase the rainforest certificate several weeks in advance.
- While the students are polished professionals at giving presentations by now, they still need a little preparation and plenty of encouragement before speaking during the activity.

II. Resources

If you are not familiar with all or some of the concepts, simply would like a refresher, or desire plenty of ammunition for responding to questions, below are some good internet resources. Additionally, some of the resources for the other classes overlap with Class 7's topics. Likewise, see the Resources section of the Introduction to the Class Series for general resources and teaching materials.

EPA

Endangered Species - <http://www.epa.gov/ebtpages/ecosspcieendangeredspecies.html>
Kids Page - <http://www.epa.gov/kids/>

USFWS

CITES related - <http://international.fws.gov/index.html>
CITES factsheet - <http://international.fws.gov/pdf/CITESfall01.pdf>

Rainforests

General (NGO) - <http://www.rainforestweb.org/>
Adopt-an-acre - <http://www.ran.org/give/paa/>

WWF

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/>
and
<http://www.panda.org/>