



Objectives

The student will design a protected environment for an endangered animal that encourages the animal's natural behaviors and meets its physical requirements.

Materials

per student group:

- construction paper
- rulers
- markers, colored pencils
- stencils of geometric shapes
- craft supplies (craft sticks, modeling clay, cardboard, etc.)
- natural materials (leaves, twigs, etc.)

Background

A reserve is place set aside for wildlife and protected from human disturbance. Some reserves are completely natural and some have wildlife viewing areas and education centers. Reserves provide a refuge for animal living and reproduction.

Action

1. Divide the class into groups of four or five students. Assign members in each team to be wildlife specialists and architects responsible for designing a modern wildlife reserve.
2. Choose the endangered animal your reserve will be built for.
3. Visit a library or use the Internet to search for species information. Make sure to note information that will help you plan and build the reserve. (Key words: wildlife reserve, conservation, animal breeding and propagation, zoos.)
4. Design and draw the reserve and conservation center. Include the following elements in your design: food, water, space, nesting, and viewing. Examples: area for the animals to eat—from plantings and additional feed, water source, areas for animals to perform courtship or breeding displays, areas for animals to build nests or give birth, sheltered viewing area for visitors, natural landscaping, animal care area for veterinarians and wildlife specialists, shade or cover to protect the animals from extreme weather, living space for human researchers (optional), a visitor education center (optional).
5. Create a three-dimensional model. Use craft supplies and natural materials to make their dwelling as similar to their habitat as possible.
6. Brainstorm ways to create partnerships with businesses to help fund construction. Research how zoos and museums use “development departments” to create tax-free donation and sponsorship programs.
7. Present your reserve to the class. Point out what makes it unique and how it will encourage breeding.