

Lesson Plan

Intermediate Level

ABSTRACT

Research the effect of the Internet on ivory trade

Online shoppers are buying huge amounts of exotic animals threatening many creatures that are becoming extinct. Poachers, collectors and people making medicines from their parts are just some of the threats. Experts estimate the illegal trade in ivory alone to be upwards of \$20 billion a year. The World Wide Web makes it even worse.

Trade on the Internet is easy, cheap and anonymous. The result is a black market where the future of the world's rarest animals is being traded away. Trade in wildlife is driven by consumer demand.

The increase in demand for ivory has exponentially grown in the past two years with the main demand being in Asian countries.

OUTLINE

Review the two articles below:

Humane Society International. (July 22, 2014). African Conservationists Call on Internet Retailer Rakuten to Cease all Sales of Elephant Ivory. Retrieved from:

http://www.hsi.org/news/press_releases/2014/07/rakuten-ivory-072214.html

Keith Perry. (February 10, 2014). Ivory Traders Using eBay to Sell Goods. Retrieved from:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/internet/10629910/Ivory-traders-using-eBay-to-sell-goods.html>

Have classroom partake in the following activities:

- 1) I'M AN ELEPHANT: Imagine you are an elephant – one of many endangered animals whose parts are on the internet for sale. Walk around the room and talk with other 'elephants' about your life and the threat from poachers and hunters. Do you know any elephants who have been killed or any that are in captivity?
- 2) PRODUCTS: In pairs/groups, talk about what you think of the following examples of trade in ivory:
 - Ivory carvings for worship
 - Ivory trinkets of all kinds including jewellery
 - Ivory structures
 - Ivory piano keys
 - Anything else made with ivory that you know of
- 3) CHAT: In pairs or groups, decide which of these topics or words are most interesting:
 - Extinction
 - Endangered species
 - Trade over the Internet
 - Ivory
 - Poaching
 - Black markets
 - Chinese medicine

Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.
- 4) EXTINCTION: Spend one minute writing down all the different words you associate with the word 'extinction'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them.
- 5) ANIMAL TRADING: In pairs/groups, talk about these opinions. Do you agree or disagree with them?
 - a) Killing elephants is no different from farming OR killing other animals
 - b) It is okay to use elephant tusks to carve ivory trinkets

- c) Certain cultures have become quite wealthy so it is ok to kill elephants for material prestige
- d) People caught selling ivory should get 30 years in prison
- e) People will never stop buying ivory
- f) Poachers are just trying to make a living

6) QUICK DEBATE: Student A thinks poachers and traders in ivory should go to prison for life. Student B thinks poachers and traders in ivory should receive heavy fines. Change partners often.

RESEARCH TRUE/FALSE QUESTIONS

- T/F There are people who want to buy ivory
- T/F Internet shoppers are increasing the threat to endangered species
- T/F Many elephants are alive while their tusks are being hacked off
- T/F The web makes the problem worse because traders are anonymous
- T/F There is a large black market in ivory
- T/F China and Thailand do not buy ivory
- T/F Poachers are associated with militia rebels
- T/F Ivory is worth more than gold
- T/F There are approximately 500,000 elephants left in the world
- T/F There are 5 different types of elephants

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms

- | | |
|---------------------|------------|
| a) endangered | mother |
| b) keystone species | specialist |
| c) anonymous | illicit |
| d) matriarch | elephant |
| e) conservationist | threatened |
| f) illegal | secretive |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases

Endangered species are in	by consumer demand
Online shoppers are buying	the killing will too
The World Wide Web makes	danger from the Internet
Trade in wildlife is driven	ivory from the Internet
When the buying stops	the situation worse

ARTICLE REVIEW: Review the following statement from the article “Ivory Traders Using eBay to Sell Goods”:

Tania McCrea-Steele, IFAW’s campaigns manager, said: “We are concerned that some people have been blatantly trying to get around the eBay ban by disguising their items.”

Discuss what sellers are trying to do and how eBay could do a better job of monitoring the situation.

ELEPHANTS ARE ENDANGERED: Make a poster on the elephant. Include information on the animal’s lifestyle and habits; the dangers it faces, and ways people can help to protect it. Show posters to your classmates.