

PROJECT IDEAS FOR SCIENCE CLASS/ANIMAL WELFARE CLUBS **GLOBAL CITIZENS CLUBS**

HOW YOU CAN HELP **AND** LEARN ABOUT ELEPHANTS

The following projects are suitable for grades 4-12. They can be modified to suit the PLO requirements for the grade. I have further lesson plans on our website at - www.Elephanatics.org that you can peruse as well.

1) Have students do a timeline on where ivory comes from. Have them watch Kathryn Bigelow's video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gQujyNDp98>

Questions to consider while research the ivory trade:

- a) Think of ways to reach the community with your findings on ivory and elephants.
- b) Post their results at local libraries, businesses
- c) How is this a global problem?
- d) Make up your own campaign asking people on the street if they know where ivory comes from
- e) Would consumers continue to buy ivory trinkets if they knew their origin?
- f) What are other resources that can be used in lieu of ivory? (i.e. toga nut and synthetic rhino horn. See link below:)

<http://techcrunch.com/2015/04/27/cuzscience/- .cnh8st:tKDy>

2) Make a mock GPS collar for an elephant. Dr. Jake Wall, who works for 'Save The Elephants' and is the Chief Scientific Researcher for 'Elephanatics', collars elephants in Kenya and uses GPS technology. See link below on how he invented the monitoring system used today to help combat poaching. Have your students watch the video from 2015 NGX Challenge: Exploring solutions, to come up with some creative and fun ways to make a GPS collar.

See links below:

<http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/blog/posting.asp?ID=1246>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1m9JWUs1HFg&feature=em-sub_digest

Questions to consider:

- a) How does monitoring the elephant with a GPS collar help the survival of the elephant?
- b) Does it help with poaching?
- c) How do they help in managing elephant population and ecosystems?
- d) How do they assist with human/animal conflict?
- e) How does monitoring their movements help with examining the routes they use to move from one range to another?

3) Research circuses, zoos and travel destinations where elephants are the main attraction. Determine whether these environments are healthy, and or, safe for the elephant. You can find resources on our website link below for travel destinations. Our list includes tourist destinations that recommend only animal friendly environments.

<https://elephanaticsdotorg.files.wordpress.com/2013/07/ele-camps-in-asia.pdf>

Questions to consider:

- a) How do circuses train elephants to do tricks? Is this ethical?
- b) Why are elephants bred in zoos?
- c) Are some accredited zoos good for the conservation and study of elephants?
- d) Does captivity affect elephant breeding?
- e) What is 'responsible elephant tourism'?
- f) What is elephant trekking or elephant riding? How is it negative to the elephant?
- g) What does the term 'wild capture' mean and how could it be associated with travel destinations?

