

Ethi-Thinking

State Mandated Benchmarks and Standards

Grade Level: K-4

Subject Areas: Environmental Education,
Language Arts

Key Terms: harm, wildlife

Objectives

Students will (1) generate a list of activities that are harmful to wildlife and the environment, (2) discuss reasons these activities are inappropriate, and (3) recommend alternate activities that are not harmful.

Method

Students list activities that might be harmful to wild plants and animals and use photos or drawings to picture, discuss, interpret, and evaluate these activities.

Materials

Art supplies (crayons, construction paper, magazines for photos) to make discussion cards.

Background

The major purpose of this activity is for students to discriminate between outdoor activities that are harmful to wildlife and the environment and those that are not.

Procedure

1. Ask the students to make a list of human activities that seem harmful to wild plants and animals. Ask them to think about things they've seen or know about that might be harmful. Some things could be:

- *Picking up baby wild animals in the environment.
- *Carving initials in trees.
- *Driving vehicles over fragile environments.
- *Removing plants from the environment.
- *Destroying bird nests.

*Illegally killing, collecting, harassing, or possessing wildlife.

2. Divide the students into groups of four. Distribute a card to the students with a photo or drawing portraying one of these activities. Students can make them themselves, or they can be prepared by the educator in advance.

3. Ask each group to discuss:

- *What is happening?
- *Does it harm wildlife? How?
- *Does it seem to be appropriate or inappropriate behavior? Why?
- *Is the person having fun?
- *What else could people do that would satisfy their needs and interests without harming wildlife or the environment?

4. Ask each group to report to everyone else about (a) their feelings concerning what is happening in the activity shown and (b) a recommendation for an alternative activity the people could do that would not be harmful.

Evaluation

1. Identify five things people do that harm wildlife and wildlife habitat.
2. For each thing listed, describe what you can do about it.
3. Identify five things that people do that help wildlife.

