



Wild and Free –Lesson Plan

The song Wild and Free is about endangered species. It gives six examples of wonderful animals around the world, some of which are endangered.

Let's have a conversation about it:

Ok. Who knows what 'endangered species' means?

It does not mean 'dangerous'. It means some animal species on our Home Planet Earth are in danger of becoming wiped out. There is another word for 'wiped out'. Do you know what that word is? It is what happened to the dinosaurs millions of years ago... They became_____.

Yes, the dinosaurs became extinct.

Now, there are many reasons for extinction. In our time, many, many species of animals are becoming extinct or are in danger of becoming extinct at an accelerated rate, ('Accelerated' means 'speeding up'.)

Why are so many animals endangered?

We've asked many children this question. And over the years, more and more children know the reasons why.

Here are three of the reasons:

POLLUTION. All kinds. Can you think of examples of kinds of pollutions?

One big one everybody knows about is Plastics.... And what happens to plastic bottles and things that end up in the ocean?

So, Pollution, that's one.

Here's a second reason:

What do you call all the different kinds of places animals live?

Habitat, Animal habitats.

Let's name some: All kinds of forests. Savannah. Desert. Rivers. Oceans...

So, another big reason many animals are endangered or are extinct is **LOSS OF HABITAT.**

Humans are taking over their natural habitats. It doesn't have to be this way. But there are eight billion people on planet earth. That's way more than there were even just 100 years ago. Human population growth is accelerating. (there's that word again).

We humans need to build things, lots of things...and we all need to eat, to have a roof over our heads, to wear clothes...and travel and transport things... and all of that uses a lot of natural resources, like trees and water, and minerals, plants...and most of all...space! And as the human population grows, we need more and more space.. and that means less and less space for the animals to **LIVE WILD AND FREE.**

The third reason for animals in danger of extinction:

HUNTING AND EXPLOITATION

An example of this is our wonderful friends, the African Elephant...

Hunting for the thrill and sport of hunting is inhumane. People can enjoy the wilderness, the wild lands of this planet, without killing animals for their fun or their egos. It's barbaric. There's no good excuse for this kind of hunting, ever.

A healthy, safe planet for the animals is a healthy, safe planet for humans too. It is not for us to take and take and take. It is a good and natural feeling to want to give back for all the gifts we've been given.

Some people have been trying to help. But some people choose to look the other way. The question is do **w**e care? Caring for the earth, the trees, the oceans, the animals, all the humans, all life...**i**s human nature, it is the most natural thing. And that is the wish in this song... **LIVE WILD AND FREE**