

Malayan Tigers
NewsDepth November 6, 2008
Classroom Activities
Online Lesson Plan



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malayan_Tiger

Overview:

Carving pumpkins is a time honored Halloween Tradition, and several Malayan Tigers at the San Diego Zoo didn't want to miss their opportunity to become a part of it. Three six month old tiger cubs and their mother delighted zoo goers as they played with their "meat stuffed" pumpkins last week. The cubs each weigh about sixty pounds but are expected to reach two hundred pounds – just like their mom. Malayan Tigers are found only on the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula in the countries of Malaysia and Thailand. The World Wildlife Fund estimates that there are about five hundred Malayan Tigers on the Planet. Today students will learn more about these beautiful endangered creatures, how their numbers are determined, and what is being done to promote their conservation.

Grade Level: 4-5

Subject: Science and Language Arts

Standards:

Students will be able to:

Identify how human actions modify the physical environment.

Identify the characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems on Earth's surface.

Classroom Activities:

1. **Activity #1** The Endangered Malayan Tigers (30 minutes)

- The Malayan Tiger is just one of several endangered Tigers. What does endangered mean? It means in danger of extinction or dying out. The primary reason they are endangered is human destruction of the animal's habitat. In Malaysia logging operations and development of roads pose a big threat to tiger habitats.
- Poachers are also responsible for tigers being endangered. Do you know what a poacher is? Poachers may earn as much as \$10,000 (U.S.) for one tiger. Why would anyone want to capture a tiger? What do you think can be done to eliminate or decrease the amount of poaching?
- Visit the San Diego Zoo website for a video featuring the Malayan Tiger and her cubs and to find further information about this tiger.

<http://www.sandiegozoo.org/animalbytes/t-tiger.html#Photos>

- Our NewsDepth feature estimates that there are about 500 Malayan Tigers on the Planet. Ever wonder how the scientists actually determine how many there really are? Take an internet trip to this website: <http://www.lairweb.org.nz/tiger/census.html> Students will learn how a “tiger census” is taken. The scientists estimate populations using sample counts in key areas using photographs. This is called “population density.” <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/7079840.stm> Another site “How do you count tigers?”

2. Activity #2 Invent your Icon (1 class period)

- In Malaysia, the tiger has been regarded as a symbol of strength, power, mystery and tenacity with a number of corporations (including banking and telecommunications). It is the symbol for the company that sponsors the official website of the Malayan Tiger: <http://www.malayantiger.org/malayensis/index.html>

- Two tigers have also been incorporated into Malaysia’s Coat of Arms.

<http://www.gov.my/MYGOV/BI/Directory/Government/AboutMsianGov/MsianFlagAndCrest/>

- How do we use the tiger as a similar symbol in our own country? (Mascot for several professional athletic teams, mascot for Frosted Flakes, Exxon, etc.)
- “The Tiger is the sentinel. The tiger is the great symbol that keeps the quality of the natural world alive. Therefore, people, like myself will fight for it till the last day I am alive. “ Valmik Thapar, Indian Historian
What is Valmik saying in this quote? Is there anything in your life right now that you feel that strongly about or committed to? What is it?
- Have students choose or assign a partner. They are to choose something that is a part of their life to which they could assign the tiger as a symbol. This can be a club, a team, a food product, etc. They are to design an icon (of a tiger), choose an appropriate name, and write a paragraph describing why the tiger would aptly symbolize what they have chosen.



Online Lesson Plans

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geoguide/tigers/plansk4.html> (national standards included)

Home Away from Home: In this lesson, students will learn some of the threats to tigers in the wild and some of the challenges of keeping them in wildlife preserves and zoos. They will then sketch and explain their designs for sensible tiger enclosures in zoos.

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0704/070411-tiger.html> Hopes Fading for Future of Tiger. This lesson also includes some activities that could be carried out without doing the entire lesson plan.

Additional Resources about Tigers and Malaysia

<http://www.wildasia.net/main.cfm?page=article&articleID=90> Tiger Research in Malaysia

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/resources/ngo/education/geoquide/tigers/> National Geographic's Interactive site about the tiger

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/Animals/CreatureFeature/Tiger> National Geographic's Creature Feature about the tiger.

http://dsc.discovery.com/convergence/tigers/plight/slide_04.html Discovery Channel's Tiger Information

<http://kidsfortigers.org/index.php> An interactive Tiger Site

<http://projecttiger.nic.in/tigersworld.htm> Project Tiger