Endangered Ark

**Topic:** Endangered animals and their habitats
**Grade Level:** 3-6
**Time to teach lesson:** 2-4 weeks

**Concept:** Students will gain an understanding of the importance of habitat to species survival.

**Overview:** Students will research endangered or threatened animals that live in your area.

**Objectives/Goals:** Students will:
- Use the Internet and other sources to gather information.
- Explore the causes for endangerment.
- Write and illustrate pages in a classroom book.
- Develop an action plan.

**Materials:**
- Internet access for research
- Encyclopedias or other printed materials on endangered animals
- Pencils, paper, art supplies
- Book- Arnosky’s Ark by Jim Arnosky (optional)

**Procedures:**
**Initiating Activity:**
Read aloud Arnosky’s Ark. Open a discussion on endangered and threatened animals in your area.

**Strategies:**
1) Give definitions for endangered and threatened species.
   - Endangered- A species, subspecies or isolated population that is, or soon may be, in immediate danger of extinction unless the species or its habitat is fully protected and managed for its survival.
   - Threatened- A species, subspecies or isolated population that is very likely to become endangered in the near future unless the species or its habitat is fully protected and managed for its survival.
2) Identify and classify animals in your area.
3) Pair or group students for research. Guide students research by asking:
   - Where does it live? Describe the animal’s habitat.
   - What does the animal’s habitat provide that it must have in order to survive?
   - Could this animal live somewhere else?
   - What causes this animal to be endangered or threatened? (loss of habitat, lack of food or water, etc.)
4) Write and illustrate. Each group of students will write 2 or more paragraphs and create a visual display of the animal’s habitat. For example, each team could construct a two-page spread, showing the creature in its natural habitat and providing a few paragraphs that describe the endangered animal, its habitat, and threats to it habitat/environment. These pages will be compiled for your class book.
5) Share research. Discuss the causes for these species being considered endangered or threatened.
6) Brainstorm ideas to help or preserve the endangered species.
7) As a class, choose an activity that students can do to help an endangered species.
8) Develop an action plan and DO IT! Be reasonable; select an activity that is manageable for you and your students.

**Culminating Activities:**
Share the class book with other students at your school.
Follow through with your action plan.

**Extension idea:**
Create an art display or bulletin board to display your research for everyone to see. Make an ark and fill it with sculptures of the endangered animals.

**Evaluation:**
Teacher observation
Oral discussion
Class participation

**Standards:**

**National Standards:**
- Standard 8: The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems on Earth’s surface.
- Standard 14: How human actions modify the physical environment.
- Standard 18: How to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future.

**Sunshine State Standards:**
- LA.A.1.3: uses the reading process effectively.
- LA.A.2.3.5: locates, organizes, and interprets written information for a variety of purposes, including classroom research, collaborative decision making, and performing a school or real-world task.
- LA.B.1.3.1: organizes information before writing according to the type and purpose of writing.
- LA.B.1.3.2: drafts and revises writing.
- LA.B.1.3.3: produces final documents that have been edited.
- LA.B.2.3: writes to communicate ideas and information effectively.
- LA.C.1.3: uses listening strategies effectively.
- LA.C.2.3: uses viewing strategies effectively.
- LA.C.3.5: uses speaking strategies effectively.
- SC.D.2.3: understands the need for protection of the natural systems on Earth.
- SC.D.2.3.2: knows the positive and negative consequences of human action on the Earth’s systems.
- SS.B.1.1.1: determines the absolute and relative location of people, places, and things.
- SS.B.2.1.1: identifies some physical and human characteristics of places.
- SS.B.2.3: understands the interactions of people and the physical environment.

**List of Websites**
FPL Endangered Species

Everglades National Park Endangered Species