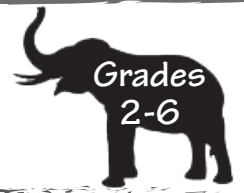




What can we do to save elephants?



For the completion of the Saving Elephants lessons, students will discuss what they can do to make a difference for elephants. They will incorporate knowledge from the previous lessons. Some teachers may wish to have an “Elephant Celebration Festival” where students can share what they have learned; other teachers may wish to display lessons and completed activities in a common space for all students.

Subject Area: Science, Language Arts

Background Information: 12-13

Length of Lesson: 2 hours

Vocabulary: coltan, word cloud, Wordle, palm oil, and tagua nut

Students will be able to:

- Research, understand, and present an elephant related conservation action
- Create a word cloud using Wordle.net

Materials:

- Activity Sheet 33: Conservation Actions for Elephants
- Sumatra Elephant Education PowerPoint
- Presentation supplies; could include varied art supplies, posterboard, or computer
- Access to books or the internet to research conservation actions
- Computer or tablet with internet capability with access to www.wordle.net

Learning Activities

Preparation

1. Print or project the Conservation Actions for Elephants Activity Sheet for the students.

Part 1 - Conservation Action Activity

2. Congratulate the students on completing the Saving Elephants lessons! Hopefully each student has learned more about where elephants live, their adaptations, social life, threats and conservation.

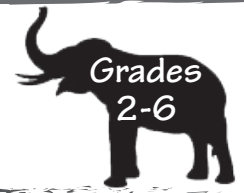
3. Elephant conservation is a global concern. Display the PowerPoint to show students a booklet used in the schools with students in Sumatra. It was developed by the Conservation Response Units (remind students of lesson 9) to help students think about ways they can help elephants near their home. Ask students to read through the text and then discuss conservation actions for students in a country where elephants live.

Care for nature; Keep your environment clean; Save water and energy; Protect forests by reducing and reusing forest products like paper and timber; Ask parents to be involved in forest protection; Do not do anything illegal in the forest such as poaching, logging or forest burning; Report elephant activity in your village.

4. Tell students that although elephants face many threats to survival, there are actions that people can take to help them. Fourteen of these actions are listed on the Conservation Actions for Elephants Activity Sheet. Let students know that they will research and present the actions to the class. This activity may be done individually or as group work, as long as each of the 14 actions are presented. You may assign each student an action or the students may pick. If the students pick, you may want to print the Conservation Actions for Elephants Activity Sheet and cut the actions out; as the actions are picked, give the student(s) the action.



What can we do to save elephants?



5. After making their selections, have the students research their conservation action. They should research:

- What is the action?
- What is the threat relating to elephants?
- How does the action help elephants?

6. The students will then present their research and findings on the elephant related conservation action to the class. They may choose to do an oral presentation, make a poster, create a PowerPoint, etc.

Discussion

7. If the students picked a conservation action, why did they choose it?
8. How can that action make a positive impact on elephants?
9. Is that action something that they could do? Is this action something the entire class could do?
10. After all the students have presented their conservation actions, as a class, pick one action that the class can take to make a difference for elephants.

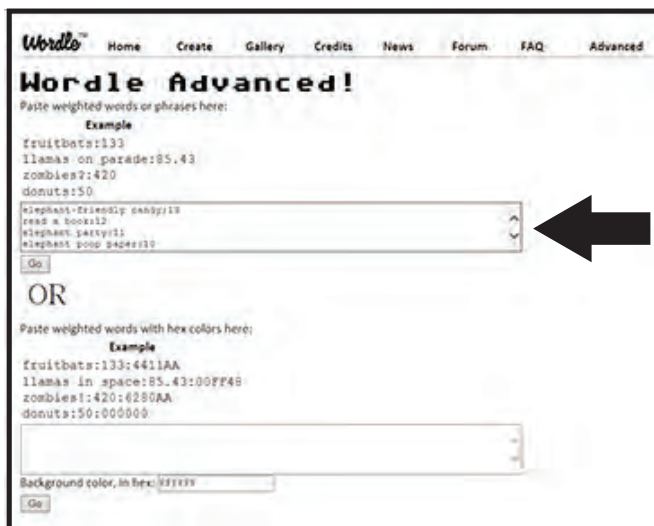
Part 2 - Word Cloud Activity

11. Introduce the term “word cloud” which is a graphic display of associated words. The website www.Wordle.net creates word clouds and calls the final product a Wordle. Show the example provided.

The class will make a Wordle of conservation action words.

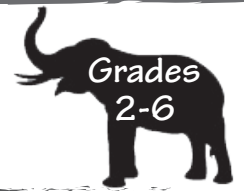
For Grades 2-3, the activity can be completed as a class. For Grades 4-6, the activity can be completed as a class, with small groups of students, or individually.

Have the students make a list of conservation action words from the Conservation Actions Activity Sheet. After they have made the list, explain to the students that you are now going to rank the actions, with their favorite actions at the top. Their favorite actions (the words higher on the list) will be bigger in the word cloud. Once the list is made, number the words, starting at the bottom of the list, working your way to the top of the list.





What can we do to save elephants?



12. Using <http://www.wordle.net/advanced>, create a Wordle. Into the first white box, type in the words the students picked followed by a colon and the assigned value (for example: elephant-friendly candy:14). The font, layout, and color of the Wordle can be chosen using the drop downs above the Wordle or you can click on the "Randomize" below the Wordle. Once you have customized the Wordle, you can print it or save it using the "Print Screen" option. If you want to, you can save it to the public gallery online for everyone to see.

Discussion

13. After creating the Wordle, ask the students why they picked those specific conservation actions? Why did they rank the actions in that order?

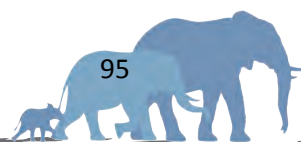
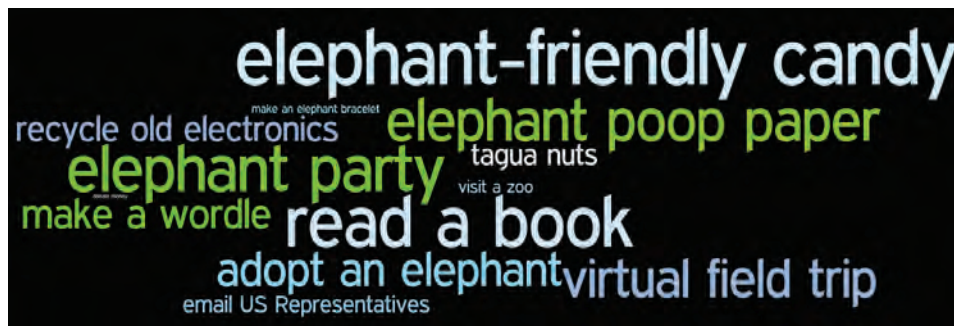
14. Have the students display their Wordles for the class or in a public space within the school.

Extensions

15. Have the students create their own Wordle selecting words they feel are important when discussing elephants. (Students should also include their name.) These words might include words they associate with elephants (social, family, Africa, Asia), elephant adaptations (trunk, feet, ears), threats to elephants (habitat loss, poaching), and conservation actions. Have the students explain why they picked the words they picked. Why do they feel that they are important words when discussing elephants?

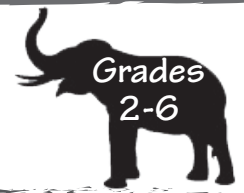
15. If time allows, teachers may choose to have an "Elephant Celebration Festival", inviting other classes and/or parents to learn more about elephants.

Example Wordles





What can we do to save elephants?



Activity Sheet 33

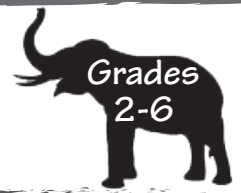
Our Actions Matter: Show You Care for Elephants!

	Have an elephant themed party! Instead of gifts, ask guests to donate to the International Elephant Foundation.		Check out library books, read wildlife magazines or watch nature documentaries to learn more about elephants.	Taste the sweet side of conservation! Choose treats made with sustainable palm oil to protect forests for Asian elephants.
"Adopt" an elephant through a conservation fund or your local zoo to help protect elephants and their homes worldwide.		Searching for a unique gift? Choose jewelry made from the tagua nut. Tagua is a great alternative to elephant ivory.		Take a virtual trip to see wild elephants in Africa or Asia. Support eco-tourism companies working to protect elephants from poaching.
	Send a letter or e-mail to your US State Representative urging them to support elephant conservation.		Dung delivery? Choose cards and paper made from elephant poop the next time you write a letter or send a birthday greeting.	
Have a sustainable palm-oil bake sale to raise awareness. Then, donate a portion of the sales to an elephant conservation group.		Show how much you care for elephants by making your own elephant themed word cloud. Visit www.wordle.net and show your friends!		Recycle old cell phones and other electronics. Coltan, one of the minerals used to make them, comes from African elephant habitat.
Make an elephant bracelet for you and your friends to show you care for elephants!	Visit your local accredited zoo and start an elephant journal. Watch and record how an elephant spends the day.		Visit disney.com/conservation to see how Disney is helping elephants in the wild. Check out the Google Earth link to learn more!	

LEARN
Conserve commit
 act
 make a difference
 do
Inspire
 CARE



What can we do to save elephants?



Conservation Action Messages Information

•Have an elephant themed party! Instead of gifts, ask guests to donate to the International Elephant Foundation. IEF supports and operates elephant conservation and education programs in managed facilities and in the wild, with emphasis on management, protection and scientific research. Donations can be made in any amount online or by a check. For online donations, visit <http://www.elephantconservation.org/ief-donation/>.

•Taste the sweet side of conservation! Choose treats made with sustainable palm oil to protect forests for Asian elephants.

Many of the products we use daily, from toothpaste, cosmetics, and candy to drain cleaner, contain palm oil. Palm oil is an edible vegetable oil that comes from African oil palm trees. Palm oil has its benefits but can also negatively impact wildlife. As the leading producer of the world's palm oil, countries in Southeast Asia are replacing rainforest habitats with large-scale palm oil plantations. In turn, the homes of Asian elephants and many other animals are disappearing. But, there is hope! Items made with sustainable palm oil are produced without negatively impacting elephants or the rainforest and provide a source of reliable income for millions of workers worldwide. To learn more about sustainable palm oil, visit http://elephanttag.org/Professional/professional_palmoil_awareness.html or www.cmzoo.org/Conservation/PalmOilCrisis.

•Searching for a unique gift? Choose jewelry made from the tagua nut. Tagua is a great alternative to elephant ivory.

Tagua nuts come from a tree in the South American rainforest called the tagua palm or ivory palm. Tagua nuts are 2-3 inches in diameter. When the nuts are dried and the outer shells removed, the nuts can be carved. Once the nuts are carved, they look like elephant ivory. By purchasing tagua nuts jewelry or carvings, you are helping local economies in South America and decreasing the demand for ivory. Tagua nut carvings and jewelry can be purchased online and at some local craft fairs.



Tagua nut carvings and jewelry can be purchased online and at some local craft fairs.

•Take a virtual trip to see wild elephants in Africa or Asia. Support eco-tourism companies working to protect elephants from wildlife.

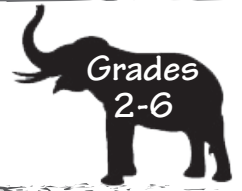
Many documentaries bring elephants to life! Check out the following videos: International Elephant Foundation's Video Library: <http://www.elephantconservation.org/video-library/>

DisneyNature's Earth, Save the Elephants' Secret Lives of Elephants, or other wildlife documentaries.

-Ecotourism is environmentally responsible travel to enjoy and appreciate nature while benefiting the local people. Ecotourism focuses on being sustainable and having a low impact to the environment. Visit The Nature Conservancy's website to learn more: <http://www.nature.org/greenliving/what-is-ecotourism.xml>



What can we do to save elephants?



Conservation Action Messages Information

- Dung Delivery? Choose cards and paper made from elephant poop the next time you write a letter or send a birthday greeting.

Elephants eat a lot of plant material! One elephant can eat over 300 pounds (about 140 kilograms) of plants a day! Therefore, elephant dung also contains a lot of plant material. To make the paper, dung is collected and washed, thoroughly washing away the dung and only keeping the plant fiber. The fiber is collected, pounded soft, and cooked. After cooking, the paper fiber is dried in the sun for many hours. The paper is weighted down to create a more uniform texture and then cut to size.

To learn more, visit <http://elephantpoopaper.com/making.html>

-Elephant poop paper can be purchase online from many different retails. The paper can be made into journals, note cards, and stationery.



- Recycle old cell phones and other electronics. Coltan, one of the minerals used to make them, comes from African elephant habitat.

Columbite-tantalite, or coltan for short, is a mineral that is mined in Africa. It is a metal found in almost all of our electronics – everything from cell phones to laptop computers to jet engines. This metal allows our electronics to be very small and very powerful. Coltan has a high ability to hold electric charge, making it an essential component of batteries and circuit boards.

By recycling electronics we re-purpose the coltan, keeping forests intact. Recycling electronics also helps the local environment by keeping less waste and chemicals from entering landfills. Check out your local electronics store, wireless retails, local zoos, and www.gazelle.com to see if they recycle old electronics and encourage all your friends to do the same!

- Make an elephant bracelet for you and your friends to show you care for elephants!

Students in India make bracelets for their friends and family to show they care for elephants!



- Visit your local accredited zoo or wildlife facility with your family and start an elephant journal.

Watch how an elephant spends the day. Keep a tally of the behaviors you see most often and then share them with the class. Talk with elephant care staff if you can to learn more about how they care for the elephants. Take video or photographs of the behaviors you found most interesting.