Habitats and Extinction

Helen Woodward Animal Center 2014

Throughout the daily program, children should focus on, and be continually guided back to thinking about, the daily question, as well as learning about potential animal careers and volunteer opportunities.

Daily Question

How does an animal's habitat and being affect **you**? (A: B/c the entire planet earth works together and is dependent on all parts to work as a whole.)

Careers and volunteer Opportunities

Scientist/Researcher: Biologist (life and living organisms), Botanist (plants), Zoology (animals), Ethologist (animal behavior), Environmental Biologist (environment), Ecologist (interactions of organisms with their environment), Hydrologist (water), Geophysicist (physics of the earth), Evolutionary Biologist (how things change, or evolve, to produce diversity of earth),

Curriculum

<u>Introduction (10min):</u> Welcome, recap from yesterday, answer questions, today's agenda.

<u>Community Service (45min)</u>: Split into three groups (Walk sheep, health check of reptiles, feed tortoises), paying attention to the different environmental/habitat needs of each animal.

<u>Meet the Madagascar Hissing Cockroach (20min):</u> Discuss habitats, biomes, biogeography, and why each animal is important to its native environment.

<u>Meet a Leopard Gecko (15min):</u> Discuss different types of habitats. Note that San Diego is a Chaparral habitat (similar to desert).

Meet the Frogs (10min): Explain "indicator species" to students.

Oil Spill and Gas Activities (20min): Focus on human impact on the environment.

Meet a CA Desert Tortoise (15min): Note the different labels of animal population numbers and discuss the alarming rate in which animals are going extinct. Ask kids what that could mean for the future. Enrich Zoey's (tortoise) habitat (lettuce) for community service. (Explain how we scatter the food around to enrich them and encourage natural foraging behavior.)

Enrichment for animals (15min): Give treats/carrots to different barn animals around cent

Discussion, Journal Time (30min)

Materials:

- Oil Spill and Gas Activity materials,
- Lettuce for tortoise, carrots for enrichment activity