

"Eco-Detectives: Solving the Mystery of the Disappearing Species"

Objective:

Engage EFL students aged 10 in an interactive and educational activity to learn about ecology, endangered species, and environmental conservation while practicing their English skills.

Materials Needed:

Printed "Eco-Detective" badges for each student

Magnifying glasses (real or toy ones)

Printed worksheets with clues and a map of the "nature reserve"

Pictures and descriptions of various animals and plants (both common and endangered)

Posters or a board for a word wall with vocabulary related to ecology (e.g., habitat, species, conservation)

Stickers or small rewards for completing tasks

Activity Outline:

Introduction (10 minutes):

Start with a brief introduction to ecology and the importance of protecting the environment.

Show pictures of different ecosystems (forests, oceans, deserts) and discuss the animals and plants that live there.

Introduce the concept of endangered species and why they are important.

Setting the Scene (5 minutes):

Explain that the students are now "Eco-Detectives" who need to solve the mystery of why certain species are disappearing from a fictional nature reserve.

Hand out "Eco-Detective" badges and magnifying glasses.

Mystery Clues (20 minutes):

Divide the students into small groups.

Give each group a worksheet with a map of the nature reserve and a set of clues related to different areas in the reserve.

Clues might include riddles, simple puzzles, or matching games involving vocabulary words from the word wall.

Investigation Stations (30 minutes):

Set up different "investigation stations" around the classroom, each focusing on a different aspect of the ecosystem (e.g., water quality, plant health, animal sightings).

At each station, students will find information and activities to complete (e.g., matching animals to their habitats, identifying plants, solving puzzles about pollution).

Encourage students to use the vocabulary from the word wall to discuss their findings.

Solving the Mystery (15 minutes):

After visiting all the stations, groups will come together and share their findings.

Guide a discussion where students piece together the clues to solve the mystery of the disappearing species (e.g., pollution, habitat loss, climate change).

Discuss solutions and ways they can help protect the environment in their own communities.

Conclusion and Rewards (10 minutes):

Recap what they've learned about ecology and the importance of each species in an ecosystem.

Give out stickers or small rewards for participation and teamwork.

Encourage students to think of one action they can take to help the environment and share it with the class.

Vocabulary Words:

Ecology

Habitat

Species

Endangered

Conservation

Pollution

Ecosystem

Biodiversity

Climate

Preservation