

A SOUND ADVENTURE



Procedure: (In-Class Activity)

1. Communication between killer whales is essential for survival. Groups of orcas called "pods" have their own distinct dialect of up to 25 "calls" that resemble clicks, moans, grunts, whistles, squeaks and creaking doors.
2. In this exercise, students will attempt to communicate with each other by calling like killer whales.
3. Create 3"x5" cards that indicate specific actions the students should try to communicate using their own orca "calls." Using research materials on killer whales, have the students determine appropriate calls for its native ocean habitat. These could include "form pairs," "come here," "spread out" and "avoid the fisherman."
4. Both teams are given a list of the same actions but each pod should develop its own set of calls (or "language") for each action.
5. Divide the class into two equal "pods."
6. See how effective each pod is with a simple competition. One pod leader will give their unique call while the other pod members "act out" the call. The opposing pod will attempt to guess what the pod leader is trying to communicate.
7. Time each team. Total the time after as many rounds as time permits. The pod with the lowest total time is the winner.

Extension:

- Killer whales are some of the smartest creatures on earth. In addition to their impressive brainpower, they are also at the top of the ocean's food chain.
- If orcas have no natural predators, ask students, what factors are contributing to the declining population of killer whales in some areas of the world.



GO WILD CLASSROOM
ADVENTURES!

Did you know...

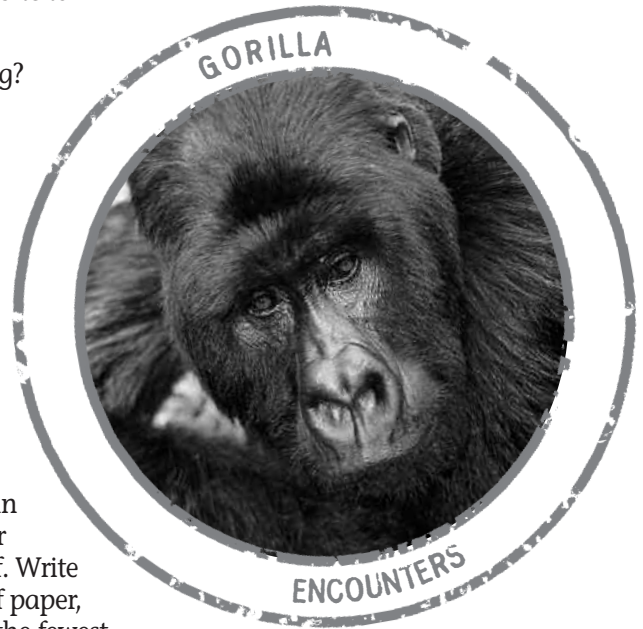
- Killer whales are actually giant dolphins?
- About 150 species become extinct every day?
- Killer whales can live to be 80 years old?
- Weighing over 1,500 pounds, polar bears are the largest land predator on earth?
- A polar bear can smell a seal up to 40 miles away?
- A King Cobra can “stand” up to 6 feet tall and use its venomous bite to kill an elephant?
- The rarely seen Butaan monitor lizard can grow to seven feet long?

Close to Home

In a classroom discussion, ask students to think about the animals that share their surroundings. In most areas, certain animal populations have grown out of control. Bears are encroaching in the suburbs of New Jersey; deer are thriving nearly everywhere; fewer Canadian geese fly south in the winter; etc.

Who Is King of Your Jungle?

The habitats of killer whales and Kalahari leopards extend great lengths. Of course, humans aren't typical in either environment. However, in your community, humans and animals may co-exist in proximity. Ask students to think about the animals that share your local “habitat” and have them share as many as they can think of. Write the names of the animals for all to see. Then, on their own sheet of paper, ask students to rank the animals from “strongest” (i.e., those with the fewest predators, greatest numbers, etc.) to the weakest (those with the most predators, most fragile population, greatest manmade pressures, etc.). After all students have ranked the animals, tally the totals to see which animal is most likely to thrive. Crown this beast “The King of Your Jungle.”



Where Do I Live?

Here's a matching game. Connect the animal with its native habitat.

POLAR BEAR

AMAZON RAIN FOREST

ANTEATER

CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

KILLER WHALE

KALAHARI DESERT

KALAHARI LEOPARD

SOUTHEAST ASIAN RAIN FOREST

KING COBRA

ALASKA

WHITE LION

UNDERWATER INDONESIAN CAVES

NIUEIAN SEA SNAKE

VARIOUS OCEANS

Answers to “Where Do I Live?”: Polar Bear (Alaska), Anteater (Amazon Rain Forest), Killer Whale (Various Oceans), Kalahari Leopard (Kalahari Desert), King Cobra (Southeast Asian Rain Forest), White Lion (Central and Southern Africa), Niueian Sea Snake (Underwater Indonesian Caves)



THE STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL

Exercise/Activity:

In *Kalahari Supercats* (airing March 19 on *Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom* on Animal Planet), students will get a rare up-close look at one of the most elusive and secretive cats in existence. Living in a desolate landscape, the Kalahari leopard is in a constant battle to survive, much less raise a family. The leopard has become king of the desert thanks to its natural abilities and learned prowess. Screen the program in your classroom, ask students to watch at home or access other research materials, then use the following to stimulate discussions that bring the cats' amazing facts to life in your classroom.

- In what ways do spots help the Kalahari leopard?
- Why is it so hard for a female to raise her cubs in the Kalahari?
- Why is the Kalahari leopard such an efficient hunter?
- Why must the Kalahari leopard cover nearly eight times more territory than any other leopard?
- Why has the leopard developed such keen night vision?
- Why has the leopard become such a great climber?
- How can the leopard thrive in an environment that also features larger animals like lions and cheetahs?
- The Kalahari leopard is an incredibly quiet hunter. It can get within six feet of prey before being "spotted." What advantages does this give the leopard?



WORD SAFARI

Unscramble the letters and see how many of these Wild animals you can find...

NIOL	(LION)
OWLF	(WOLF)
ILLGORA	(GORILLA)
HATEEHC	(CHEETAH)
AKENS	(SNAKE)
OELARPD	(LEOPARD)
LEENAHT	(ELEPHANT)
ILLODMARA	(ARMADILLO)
EATTNAER	(ANTEATER)
ILLEKR ALEHW	(KILLER WHALE)

