Write Proposed Legislation

Objective
The student will identify the steps of how a bill becomes a law. The student will demonstrate presentation and debating skills during a mock session of congress. The student will identify causes as to why animals become threatened or endangered.

Materials
For each student group:
- paper to create a species profile
- scrap paper
- bowl
- access to art supplies (modeling clay, paper, markers, glue, old magazines, etc.)
- Proposed Legislation sheet
- access to Internet or library resources

Action

First Class Session
1. Divide the class into groups of four.
2. Explain that each group will create a fictional species by completing a Species Profile sheet along with a picture or three-dimensional model of their species’ image. Students may use clay, paper and markers, or other mediums to create their models.

Second Class Session
3. Announce to the class that all the fictional species created have just been categorized as threatened for various reasons.
4. As a class, brainstorm 10 reasons why species may be threatened with extinction; for example, habitat destruction, unregulated wild pet trade, poaching, pesticides or pollution. Write the reasons on small slips of paper and mix the slips in a bowl. Ask one representative from each group to draw a reason from the bowl. This reason identifies why their fictional species has become threatened.
5. To protect their species, student groups will write a bill using the Proposed Legislation worksheet. Student groups may need to research how a national bill is passed in congress in order to complete the worksheet.

Third Class Session
6. When students groups have completed their species profile and their Proposed Legislation worksheet, it is time to present and debate the proposed bills in a mock session of congress. Instruct each student group to prepare a brief synopsis of their bill along with a copy of the Species Profile Funsheet. Depending on the number of proposed bills and the depth of debate, the mock session may carry over to other class sessions.
Write Proposed Legislation

Name: ________________________________

Answer the following questions on how laws are made.

1. Identify the two chambers of Congress.

2. True or False: Laws may be initiated by either chamber of Congress.

3. True or False: Either chamber of Congress can make amendments to a bill.

4. Who receives the bill after it has been passed by both chambers of Congress?

5. How can a bill become a law if the President vetoes it?

Fill in information for your proposed legislation
Create a Legislative Number (please write H.R. for bills introduced to the House and S. for bills introduced to the Senate. ex: S.756):

Detailed bill description:

Summarize bill in five bullet points:

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5.
Describe how this bill will protect the threatened species.

Describe the economic considerations for this bill (staffing, land, etc).

Why is this species important to protect?