



SeaWorld/Busch Gardens Geography

4-8 Classroom Activities

Wildlife Trade

OBJECTIVE

The student will identify the countries involved in wildlife trade from geographical clues.

ACTION

1. Introduce the following information to familiarize students with the activity's content.
 - a. Wildlife Trade: The domestic and international trade of wildlife and products made from wildlife.
 - b. The following are some common ways that traded plants and animals are used. Pets, gardens, clothing, accessories such as purses, gloves, hats, shoes, home décor such as ashtrays, shells, corals, medicines, furniture, jewelry, trophies, and food. Note: Examples include both legal and illegal uses.
 - c. Generally, the trading of plants and animals is legal when the species' populations are large. However, billions of dollars worth of wildlife and wildlife products are traded illegally every year. Consumer demand encourages people to take rare and endangered plants and animals from their native habitats in such large quantities that it threatens those species' survival. We can help reduce illegal wildlife trade by being cautious of our purchases (consumer demand). The buyer should know the origin of the item.
2. Explain that students will be solving wildlife trade puzzles. Each puzzle identifies an animal, a few fun facts, conservation information, and importing and exporting country descriptions. The students will determine the geographic location of the importing and exporting countries based on the descriptions given. Next, they will identify that trade route on their world map by drawing a line from the exporting country to the importing country with each station's designated colored pencil. Note: The import and export countries listed are for example purposes only.
3. Divide the class into groups of two and give each group a copy of the World Map.
4. Explain that each group will rotate through a series of ten stations and each station has a wildlife trade card. Each group will be given five minutes to determine the importing and exporting countries based on the descriptions given. As well as

identify that wildlife trade route on their world map using the colored pencil assigned to each location. Then they will rotate to the next station and repeat the procedure.

5. The group that has the most correct answers after rotating through all the stations wins the game. The teacher may check the answers using the Teacher's Guide.

*Activity adapted from WWF Caught in the Act activity.

*World Map provided by www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/world_maps/world_pol02.jpg

ANSWERS

leopard:

export country: Nepal
import country: France

musk deer:

export country: South Korea
import country: Japan

Pacific walrus:

export country: Alaska
import country: Canada

black rhinoceros:

export country: Zambia
import country: Taiwan

freshwater sawfish:

export country: South Africa
import country: China

bengal tiger:

export country: India
import country: China

Asian elephant:

export country: Sri Lanka
import country: Germany

hyacinth macaw:

export country: Brazil
import country: United States of
America

Asiatic black bear:

export country: China
import country: United States of Am.

giant armadillo:

export country: Venezuela
import country: Mexico

MATERIALS

For each student pair:

- world map
- pencil

For class:

- colored pencils or fine-tip markers
- copy *Wildlife Trade* Funsheets
- atlas
- teacher answers at left

PREPARATION

Cut each *Wildlife Trade* card from the funsheets and place at a station around the classroom. There will be a total of ten stations.

Place a different colored pencil at each station so that the students may use a different color at each locale.

Determine class size and photocopy enough World Maps so that each pair of students may have one.

Wildlife Trade Cards Funsheet

Leopard *Panthera pardus pardus*

Exporting Country Description: This country lies in between the countries of China and India.

Importing Country Description: Germany, Belgium, and Italy border this country.

Fun Facts:

- Leopards can weigh 25 to 91 kg (55 to 200 lb.).
- Leopards are smaller than other great cats such as lions and tigers.
- Leopards are very strong and are capable of carrying prey twice their weight up into the trees.

Threats: Poaching and habitat destruction are the greatest threats to *Panthera*. Panthers are poached for their distinctive spotted fur coats.

Musk Deer *Moschus moschiferus*

Exporting Country Description: This country lies in between North Korea and Japan.

Importing Country Description: Sapporo, Osaka, and Kobe are all major cities in this country.

Fun Facts:

- Musk deer are very shy and live solitary lives most of the time.
- Musk deer can weigh between 15 to 17 kg (33 to 37.4 lb.).
- Musk deer consume over 130 plant species as part of their diet.
- The musk pouch of the male is used to attract a mate.

Threats: Musk deer have been overexploited for their musk glands that are used in medicine and perfume production.

Pacific Walrus *Odobenus rosmarus divergens*

Exporting Country Description: This country lies between the Bering Strait and Canadian border.

Importing Country Description: Alberta and Ontario are provinces in this large country.

Fun Facts:

- A thick layer of blubber insulates the walrus. Blubber may be up to 15 cm (6 in.) thick. During the winter, blubber may account for one-third of a walrus' total body mass. Blubber also streamlines the body and functions as an excess energy reserve.
- To locate food, walruses use their vibrissae (whiskers). A walrus has about 400 to 700 vibrissae in 13 to 15 rows on its snout. Vibrissae are attached to muscles and are supplied with blood and nerves. A walrus moves its snout through bottom sediment to find food. Abrasion patterns of the tusks show that they are dragged through the sediment, but are not used to dig up prey. Walruses may also take in mouthfuls of water and squirt powerful jets at the sea floor, excavating burrowing invertebrates such as clams.
- Walruses spend about two-thirds of their lives in the water.

Threats: Habitat destruction and poaching for their tusks are the greatest threats to the walrus.

Black Rhinoceros *Diceros bicornis*

Exporting Country Description: The countries Angola, Tanzania, and Congo all border this country.

Importing Country Description: The capital of this country is Taipei.

Fun Facts:

- A rhino's horn is not a true horn that is attached to the skull. It grows from the skin and is made up of keratin fibers, the same material found in hair and nails.
- Black rhinos have a prehensile lip that is used much like a finger to select and pick the leaves and twigs they prefer.
- Black rhinos travel alone except while breeding or raising offspring. Juveniles remain with the mother until they are completely weaned just before a new baby is born.

Threats: Poaching for their horns and habitat destruction are the greatest threats to rhinoceros survival. Some cultures believe the horn has medicinal properties, but there is no scientific evidence for this theory. In fact, the horn is partially composed of keratin (protein found in hair and nails)!

Freshwater Sawfish *Pristis microdon*

Exporting Country Description: Cape Town and Johannesburg are cities found in this country.

Importing Country Description: Harbin, Guilin, and Lhasa are cities in this country.

Fun Facts:

- This species of sawfish feeds on benthic animals and small schooling fish.
- Freshwater sawfishes have a broad based saw-shape snout that has 14-22 teeth on each side. They use the saw for attacking prey, rooting, and defense.
- Nearly all populations have suffered serious declines.

Threats: Habitat destruction and overexploitation due to hunting for food. The increase in demand for shark-fin soup also places pressure on the remaining populations.

Bengal Tiger *Panthera tigris tigris*

Exporting Country Description: This country has borders on China, Pakistan, and Nepal.

Importing Country Description: The capital of this country is Beijing.

Fun Facts:

- Since tigers hunt mostly at dusk and dawn their stripes help them hide in the shadows of tall grasses. They stalk and pounce because they are not able to chase prey a long distance.
- It is estimated that there are less than 3,000 Bengal tigers left in the wild.
- A tiger can consume as much as 40 kg (88 lb.) of meat in one feeding.

Threats: Habitat loss and poaching are the greatest threats to the tiger's survival. Tigers are poached for their skin and bones. Some cultures believe tiger bones have medicinal properties.

Asian Elephant *Elephas maximus*

Exporting Country Description: The capitol is located in the city of Colombo of this country.

Importing Country Description: Berlin, Hamburg, and Bavaria are all states in this country.

Fun Facts:

- The dominant elephant in the herd is a female, the matriarch. She is often the oldest, largest or most experienced elephant in the herd of related females and their young.
- Elephants can use low frequency sound waves for communication between members of the herd and individuals outside the herd. These sounds may carry for distances of up to 10 miles.
- The elephant's ivory tusks are incisors used for digging, uprooting trees and displaying.

Threats: Habitat loss and overexploitation for their hair, skin, and ivory are the greatest threats to the Asian elephant.

Hyacinth Macaw *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*

Exporting Country Description: The countries of Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Bolivia, and Paraguay have borders on this country.

Importing Country Description: The city of Anchorage is found in the northernmost state of this country.

Fun Facts:

- It is the largest macaw species, frequently traveling together in small flocks of one to eight pairs, loudly calling to one another.
- Macaw pairs remain bonded.
- Macaws are able to reach flying speeds of up to 35 miles per hour.

Threats: Habitat loss and overexploitation for the pet industry.

Asiatic Black Bear *Ursus thibetanus*

Exporting Country Description: The cities of Kashi and Shashi are in this country.

Importing Country Description: The islands of Oahu, Molokai, and Maui are part of this country.

Fun Facts:

- The Asiatic black bear can grow up to 50 to 74 inches (125 to 185 cm) and weight between 220 and 440 lb. (99 to 198 kg).
- Asiatic black bears are omnivorous , eating insects, small mammals, birds, and fruits.
- They are mainly nocturnal, sleeping in caves or trees during the daytime.

Threats: Habitat destruction and poaching are the greatest threats to the Asiatic black bear's survival. Some cultures believe that the bear gallbladder has medicinal properties.

Giant Armadillo *Priodontes giganteus*

Exporting Country Description: The capital city of this country is Caracas.

Importing Country Description: United States of America and Guatemala have borders on this country.

Fun Facts:

- The Giant armadillo can grow up to 1.5 m in length (4.95 feet) and weigh up to 55 kg (121 pounds).
- Giant armadillos feed on ants, termites, and occasionally a snake.
- Daytime heat is avoided by resting in a burrow and emerging at night to feed.

Threats: Habitat destruction and overexploitation for its tough leathery skin are the greatest threats to the giant armadillo.