

# Endangered Animals Differentiated Instruction Research Project

Dear Teachers,

This project allows students to demonstrate their knowledge about endangered animals in a unique way. In small groups of twos or threes, students will be presented one endangered animal to use for a research project. They plan, research, write, and simulate a complete television commercial or public service announcement about an endangered animal.

I would devote at least three classroom hours to the class project, though your students may need more or less time.

To provide an idea of how this project should be paced, consider the following:

1.) Prior to beginning this research project, introduce students to some of the many reasons why animals become endangered. These reasons might include: illegal hunting, habitat destruction, pollution, overhunting/overfishing, human population growth, and disease.

If you do not have textbook resources on the subject, the web is full of great readings about what factors endanger animals. Two excellent online starting places include the *World Wildlife Fund* page about threats (<https://worldwildlife.org/threats>) and *Kids Planet: Species Fact Sheets* (<http://www.kidsplanet.org/factsheets/map.html>).

2.) Introduce the project to students, letting them know that they will write and present a commercial about their endangered animal. This commercial will serve as an informative piece to grow awareness about the threats to the animal and what people can do to protect it from extinction.

3.) Provide a copy of the research log handout included in this packet to each group to help guide their research. Tell each group to research their endangered animal using library books, textbooks, credible Internet resources, and electronic databases, anything you can access. Have them complete the research log to help them guide the writing of their commercials.