This Is the World’s Most Dangerous Cat!

Lesson Plan

1. Preview the Issue
Provide students with some background on endangered animals.

Build background knowledge
(10 min.)

Pass out or project the video printable.

Then watch our video “What Are Endangered Animals?” Afterward, use the printable to discuss the following questions:

1. What does it mean when a type of animal is endangered? (It is in danger of dying out forever.)
2. Pick one of the endangered animals from the video. (Answers will vary.)
3. Why is this animal endangered? (Answers will vary.)

Preview vocabulary (3 min.)
Next, play the online vocabulary slideshow. This issue’s featured words are fierce, predator, endangered, habitat, and tracking collars.

2. Read the Issue
Set a purpose for reading (5 min.)

Pass out the issue, and discuss the cover. Are children surprised that this tiny cat is so dangerous? Why do they think such a dangerous cat would need help? Remind them of what they learned about endangered animals in the video.

Next, read the As You Read prompt on page 2: “Think about how scientists are trying to help the black-footed cat.” Encourage children to think about this prompt as they read.

Read together (20 min.)
Pass out the Read and Think printable. Use it to check comprehension as you read the issue together, pausing to ask the questions.

3. Focus on ELA Skills
You can use our printable worksheets to focus on important ELA skills. Here’s how.

ELA Focus: Vocabulary (15 min.)

Use the Word Work printable to deepen students’ understanding of the words predator, fierce, endangered, and habitat.
Editor’s Pick: Main Idea and Details: Differentiate Your Teaching (15 min.)

( Go to page 2 to see more Editor’s Picks.)

- We’ve provided you with two versions of the Main Idea and Details printable: one for students who need more scaffolding, and one for those who need less.

- The first version helps guide students through the graphic organizer by providing them with the main idea and prompting them to summarize each section of the article.

- The challenge version provides the same graphic organizer, but we’ve left each section blank for children to fill in on their own.

4. Assessment: Reading Checkpoint

- Pass out the Reading Checkpoint to review key concepts from the issue and assess students’ proficiency on key nonfiction reading skills.

- Go online and download our Assessment Tracker. This handy chart will help you keep track of students’ progress on these key skills throughout the year.

From the Archive

Here are two past issues you can use—one that will extend your lesson on endangered animals and another that will introduce children to two special wild cats:

- Orangutan School from April 2019. This issue shows children how people are helping baby orangutans survive in the wild.

- Two Wild Friends from September 2017. In this issue, children meet a lion cub and a tiger cub that are best buddies!

Differentiation Station

You can find a higher-Lexile-level version and a lower-Lexile-level version of the article online at www.scholastic.com/sn2.

Higher-Lexile level: 580L
Lower-Lexile level: 510L