

Research & Presentation on Animals

Description:

Students will choose an animal from Maria Sanders' *Space 2 Place* exhibition. They will research their chosen animals, put together some form of presentation, and present their research to an audience. Forms of presentation could include posters, speeches, slideshows, and other electronic presentations. Audiences may be comprised of classmates, parents, another class of students, or even community members. The presentations can be made live or could be recorded and set up online so that certain people have access as audience members. You and your students can decide on acceptable forms of presentation, audiences, and live versus recorded presentations. There are resources listed below to assist you on whichever paths you take.

Materials:

Computers with access to the internet (to view *Space 2 Place* and conduct research) and tools necessary for chosen methods of presenting (i.e. PowerPoint, Prezi, word processor, etc.), materials necessary for chosen methods of presentation (i.e. posterboard, markers, color printer, etc.), access to school or public library (optional)

Resources:

Research

- [National Geographic Kids](#)
- [Animal Corner](#)
- [San Diego Zoo for Kids](#)
- [Google Scholar](#)
- [Kiddle Search Engine](#)

Presentation

- [Prezi](#) (free)
- [Google Slides](#) (free)
- [Easel.ly](#) (free)
- [Glogster](#) (paid)
- [VoiceThread](#) (paid)

Procedure:

Part 1: Share the following information with students in either of the following two ways: (1) Allow students to explore the online exhibition, look for animals, and read Sanders' writings to determine what kinds of animals she photographed. (2) Share the following information directly with students. Each link leads to a section of the exhibition where images of the animals can be found.

[A Shadow from the Past](#) (bison)

[Running Free](#) (miniature horses, black Labrador)

[Playful Wonder](#) (alpaca)

[Contemplation, Compassion, and Shadow of Submission](#) (wolves)

[Predator](#) (Bengal tiger)

Liger Pride (liger)

Forever Free and Resilience (American mustangs)

Nostalgia (bison)

Winter Wonder (elk)

Yin Yang (Hawaiian lizard)

Part 2: Allow students to explore the links above and choose an animal to research.

Part 3: Students research their chosen animals using internet resources, the school or local library, and any additional resources provided by the teacher. Some ideas for research are:

- Habitat – Where is the animal native to? What climate and weather are best for the animal?
- Diet – What does this animal eat? Is this animal a predator? Does it eat meat, plants, or both?
- Protection – Does the animal live in some sort of shelter? Do other animals prey on this animal?
- Life – How long does this animal usually live? Is it a mammal, reptile, amphibian? Does it stay with its mate forever, or only during mating season? How does it raise its offspring?

Part 4: Students choose how they will organize and present their research. For example, a student may choose to use each of the categories of guiding questions (listed in Part 3) as slide headings in a slideshow. Another student may choose to organize research in a way that brings the audience through the animal's life chronologically and turn that information into a timeline using Prezi. Yet another student may choose to find photos that relate to certain sections of research that will be presented on a poster. It may be helpful for students to write down plans and share with the teacher before creating presentations.

Part 5: Students use the necessary materials to construct their presentations and present to an audience.