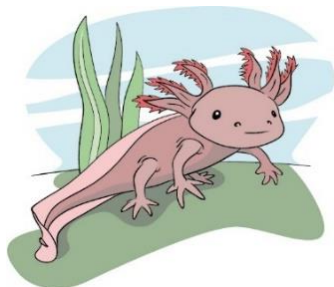


# Lesson program



## Description

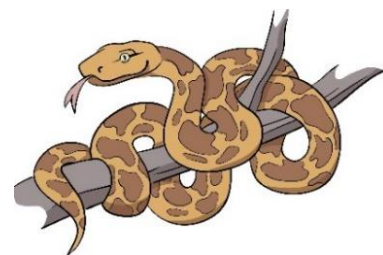
Do you want your students to truly understand what biodiversity means, to realize how important it is to protect biodiversity and know what they themselves can do? Then this comprehensive lesson program<sup>1</sup> is perfect for your class. By engaging with eight threatened animal species, under which the giant panda, the Humboldt penguin and the axolotl, students become acquainted with the complex concept biodiversity. They will come to understand that biodiversity has to do with (1) the differences within a species, (2) the differences between species, (3) the relationships between different life-forms and (4) the diversity of habitats. In small groups the students make use of a workbook and video to learn what their group's animal needs to live and what that has to do with biodiversity. Students are stimulated in an interactive way over the course of five lessons to do research and think



critically. Experience has demonstrated that knowledge about the importance of biodiversity is not enough to stimulate action. Therefore the students also reflect on their feelings with respect to what threatens biodiversity and explore which actions they themselves can carry out to protect biodiversity. If the class goes to the zoo, then the students also engage their own senses to experience biodiversity.

## Learning goal

- ❖ Student understands what biodiversity means and can explain it in his/her own words.
- ❖ Student understands why biodiversity is important and through what it is being threatened.
- ❖ Student is conscious of his/her own feelings with respect to (the threats to) biodiversity.
- ❖ Student discovers what he/she can do to protect biodiversity.



<sup>1</sup> The entire lesson program has been completely developed and scientifically tested in close collaboration between Wageningen University, elementary school teachers, IVN/Het Groene Wiel and certain NVD zoos.

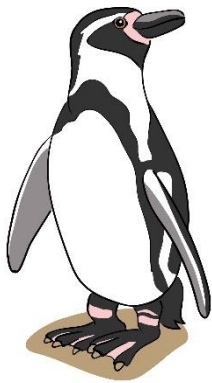
## Core Goals environmental education

- 39 The students learn to interact carefully with the environment.
- 40 The students learn to distinguish among many common plants and animals and learn to identify and name them and learn how they function in their environment.



## Implementation

The lesson series is made up of four lessons in the classroom and one lesson in the zoo, or five lessons in the classroom. The teacher gives the lessons on the basis of a comprehensive instruction manual and handy PowerPoints with group assignments supporting each lesson.



### Target group

The lessons are suitable for students from groups 6, 7 and 8 (Dutch primary school system).

### Time investment

The lessons are about 45 minutes in length. Lesson 3 consists of either the zoo lesson or the alternative lesson at school and is about 3 hours in length.

## Lesson materials

The lesson materials consist of a comprehensive instruction manual for the teacher, worksheets, workbook, information sheets, PowerPoints and 8 videos in which the information about biodiversity and the animals is presented in a manner designed to create enthusiasm. A good internet connection and sufficient computers are necessary so that students can watch the video of their own group animal together with their group. The lesson materials are provided free of charge. There are costs associated with the zoo lesson.

**Would you like to know more? Contact your local environmental education center or the zoo to discuss the possibilities.**

