

Giants of the Animal Kingdom

AGE RANGE 5-11 years

LESSON TIME 40 minutes

CURRICULUM LINKS Mathematics, Science, English, Geography.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Polar bears and elephants, two of the world's largest mammals, are currently in danger of extinction.

These two creatures live in very different parts of the world but both are threatened. The polar bear was put on the endangered list in 2008 and several species of elephants are also included. The polar bear was one of the first animals to be considered endangered due to global warming.

Activity

1. Look at the question sheet and using the fact cards provided, see how many questions the children can answer.
2. Produce a graph to show the different weights of male and female elephants and polar bears. Then, produce a graph to show how long the following African creatures could live to: elephant, hippopotamus, zebra, cheetah, lion. Or do the same with these arctic creatures: polar bear, seal, walrus, arctic fox, beluga whale.
3. Use the map provided and ask the children to mark where you will find polar bears, African elephants and Asian elephants.



LOWER

1. What is the difference between the weather in the Arctic (where polar bears live) and the Tropics (where some elephants live)?
2. What is the weather like where:
 - Polar bears live? e.g. very cold, long days in the summer and long nights in the winter, not many people living there.
 - African elephants live? e.g. very hot, lots of trees and bushes.
 - Asian elephants live? e.g. very hot and sticky, tropical forests.

UPPER

Find two other endangered animals in different parts of the world that you can compare. Then produce fact cards (using the templates provided), for each of them e.g. panda, mountain gorilla, and mark where they live on the map.

FURTHER IDEAS

- Investigate why polar bears need to put on so much weight in the summer.
- Draw or paint some pictures of polar bears or elephants in their natural habitat.
- Pour some water into an ice tray and place it into the freezer. Examine it when it has frozen. What causes it to melt and how might this be a problem for the polar bear in its natural habitat?
- If a polar bear walks five kilometres every day, how far will it walk in a week? Now make up five mathematical problems about polar bears or elephants.
- Which creature do you think is more dangerous, a polar bear or an elephant? Why?

