



Endangered Species - Children's Pack

Sunday School/Children's Groups Activities

God's Creatures in Our Hands-Hand-print nest

Equipment: Paper, paint (suitable for hand-painting) or wax crayons, pictures of either primates or birds depending upon the sort of nest.

Activity: Make a nest of handprints, either using painted handprints or by drawing around hands in wax crayon. Obviously the nest will be basically brown if it's intended for birds and basically green if it's intended for gorillas, chimpanzees or orang-utans! Stick pictures of the appropriate creatures inside the nest.

Purpose/teaching: To illustrate that in many ways the future of other creatures, especially endangered ones, is in our hands. The choices which we make affect both their quality of life now, and their chances of survival in the medium/long term.

Pond-life

Equipment: Cardboard, long ruler or short piece of cane to make handle of 'fishing-rod', string, magnet, paperclips.

Activity: Before the children arrive, cut the card into pieces, and write or stick a picture on each piece. The word/pictures should be a mixture of animals and plants which belong in ponds and rivers, and items of waste or rubbish. Attach a paper clip to each card, so that it can be picked up with a magnet. Make a 'fishing-rod' and get the children to take it in turns to fish for a piece of card. Talk about the item on the each card as it comes up. What kind of animal is it? If it's a piece of rubbish e.g. crisp packet, how did it get into a pond and why might it be really harmful there.

Purpose/teaching: To explain how we pollute our environment as individuals and as a society, and that some animals are endangered and struggling to



survive here in the UK as well as abroad. Also discuss why this matters to us as Christians, and what we can/should do about it.

Animal Bumps

Equipment: Either music which can be played and stopped, or a whistle.

Activity: The leader names an animal, preferably an endangered or threatened one e.g. gorilla, elephant etc. Everyone else has to move around the room in the style of the said animal, until the music stops or the whistle is blown. When that happens, everyone drops to the floor and the last one down is 'out'. Repeat until there is a winner.

Purpose/teaching: To get children, especially younger ones, thinking about the different kind of animals in the world and how interesting they are.

Afterwards there can be a discussion about how sad it would be if we were to lose any of the creatures which had featured in the game.

Prayer

Loving God, you made our beautiful world and gave human beings the special job of looking after it. You asked us to take care of the animals in the sky on the land and in the sea. Teach us all to do this. Sometimes we human beings let you down, and we pray for all animals who are suffering or in danger because of this. Help us to play our part in helping them, and sharing our home more fairly with the creatures around us. **Amen.**

Longer term projects and other ideas

For some longer term projects, and other ideas relating to this topic, see the ASWA website, under 'Youth & Children'-'Messy Church Resources'-'Our Job: Stewards of Creation'