

The world of the wild animals and birds. Working with Wildlife Rescue Breeding Center in Stara Zagora

Teaching lessons: 3-rd-4-th grade-8-10 years old (description of the lessons and the activities)

The title of lessons: The world of the wild animals and birds.

Activity type: observation and discussion, presentations,

Class organization: group work

Skills focus: listening, speaking, writing

Short description of the lessons and classroom activities:

(1-st activity)

- Students watch the presentation "Flora and Fauna in Europe".
- Then they discuss what species of animals live in Europe.
- What is the habitat of these species? How do they survive the winter?
- What do they eat?
- Students complete a worksheet after the presentation and discussion. They colour the studied wild animals and birds on it.
- The students made posters for the wild animals.

(2-nd activity)

- Students watch the presentation: " What do we know about hedgehogs? "
- How big are hedgehogs and how much do they weigh?

- What do they eat? How are they born and raised?
- Interesting and curious facts about hedgehogs.
- Which animals and birds are their enemies and use them as food?
- What is a food chain and giving examples.
- Students complete a worksheet after the presentation and discussion about hedgehogs and other animals.
- Outdoor Learning: Practical activities at Green Balkans Rescue Centre- Students listened with interest to the story of Mrs. Yordanka Vasileva about the different types of inhabitants in the Center for Wildlife Rescue "Green Balkans". They learned about the four species of vultures and why they are called "nature keepers". They looked at posters, watched from various live cameras open-air aviaries where birds prepare to return to their natural habitat.
- Then the children met with the various inhabitants of the Center - such as a raven, a veiled owl, an eagle, a white and black stork and others.
- The students cannot take care of the birds in the cages, because they require special care.
- They collected a sum which they donated to the center and adopted two birds. In this way, they took care for the birds.
- Some children presented and gave the posters in "Green Balkans", which they made during the project activities.
- They got a certificate for "adoption" not of one, but for two birds.

Teaching lessons: pre-school classes (description of the lessons)-5-7 years old

The title of lesson: The world of the wild animals.

Activity type: observation and discussion, presentation,

Class organization: group work

Skills focus: listening, speaking, drawing

Short description of the lessons and classroom activities: (1-st activity)

- Discussion and talk about wildlife and birds. Where do they live? What do they eat? Are they in danger? Do people harm wildlife and birds? How should we take care of them?
- Where do the Imperial Eagle, the Griffon Vulture and the Tawny owl?
- What do these birds eat?
- Children describe birds with words and short sentences.
- After a brief description of the birds, the children draw a wild bird by choosing one of them. They discuss the size and colours they should use. The younger children in the group make a cardboard mask of the bird, which they carefully colour.
- Practical lesson - (2-nd activity)
- Meeting with people from the "Green Balkans" who take care of wild animals. They introduced the bird Chara to all children, what it eats, how it got to the rescue center.
- Children ask questions about bird species and the guests talk about bird species.
- They show a presentation for environmental pollution and how it harms birds. Very often birds "feed" with plastic bags and plastic items, which they accept as food.

- Young children learn how to separate rubbish?
- A real meeting of the children with the bird Chara.
- Charity for the animals from the rescue center.
- Singing about the birds.

Expected results: expansion and consolidation of knowledge about birds and human care for them; children to be aware of the care for nature and environmental protection;

Assessment and Feedback

- By the end of each step of the project the students do a quiz. /different for the three age groups/
- The children give their teachers a feedback about their favorite activities /both at school and at the Green Balkans educational centre/ and suggest their own ideas about funny and useful events.
- In order to summarize the students` opinions on lessons and practical outdoor activities we create a survey and prepare a photo album, describing the most exciting moments and school trips.

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