

Teachers' information

Author: Alina Bublitz

Grade: Grade 4 Primary school

Quality management: Prof. Dr. Carsten Hobohm, Institute of Biology and Didactics, University of Flensburg

Material: A story of a Delacour's langur and questions in the form of rotation activities, wanted poster, interview

Aim: To get to know the Delacour's langurs as endangered species, their habitat and environment, independent thinking on the topic to find answers

Factual information:

The Delacour's langur is a critically endangered species of primate, endemic to the region of Hanoi, Vietnam. Like other closely related langurs, Delacour's langur has a crest of long, upright, hair over the forehead. It can be distinguished from other langurs by the white markings on its face, rump and outer thighs, which is the reason for its common name, panda langur. Its habitat is restricted to the densely wooded limestone areas south of the capital, Hanoi. It is estimated that there are about 17 distinct populations, of which less than 50 percent inhabit protected areas. Therefore, it is not possible to ensure the survival of most Delacour's langurs. Consequently, the population will most likely decrease more and more in future. The primary threat to the species is hunting for traditional medicine and delicatessen trade, destruction of forest habitat (limestone mining) and loss of genetic diversity. They are protected by reception centers, breeding- and reintroduction programs and by national parks.

Didactics:

The Delacour's langur is used as an example to make the students aware of the existence of highly endangered species. In order to establish a basic understanding of the urgent need to protect such species, the students will be confronted with the specific problems of Delacour's langurs. They will find out the reasons for the decline of populations and think about different ways of protecting endangered species and their habitats. The students will learn to deal with a subject independently and to find answers.

Methodology:

The students will complete four rotation activities. In the first, they will get to know the animal itself, in the second, its habitat, in the third, the threats it faces, and in the final one ways of protecting it. Besides the questions in the rotation activities, the students will compile characteristics of a Delacour's langur for a 'wanted' poster and an interview. The students will work on the wanted poster and the interview after each rotation activity. The wanted poster and the interview sheet serve as handouts.

References:

Nadler, T. (2009): Vietnamese Journal of Primatology. Vol. 1. Frankfurt, Hanoi.
Raschka, A. (2002): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delacour's_langur (03.01.14)