

Teaching Material on Biodiversity Conservation (TMBC)

Title: The orang-utan and its habitat

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Level: Secondary level II (Ages 15-19)

Time: 45min + 90min

Materials: sheet: "The orangutan and its habitat", sheet: "pony's story", sheet with the caricature and a sheet with answers

Aims: The students should learn about the characteristics of the orangutan and the way it lives. They should also find out about the problems facing the tropical rain forest and its deforestation. They have to understand why the orangutan is on the brink of extinction. The lesson is also thought-provoking with respect to ways of conserving worldwide biodiversity.

Course:

1. Entry point (25min): The sheet with "the orangutan and its habitat" is handed out to the students. They should read the sheet and complete the tasks.

They are also given the interview "Pony's Story" which provides an example of animal cruelty.

2. Immersion (20min): The students receive the caricature which they have to describe and analyse. (The teacher has to decide whether the students should do this in writing or whether the class should discuss the caricature in plenum.)

3. Research (Homework): At home or in chemists'/supermarkets the students should search for products and labels which contain palm oil. This should give them an overview of how much palm oil is used by humans.

4. Discussion of the homework (15min): The students list all articles with palm oil. Are there any surprises? The teacher can show an image with different products from the answer sheet.

5. Teamwork and discussion (60min): The students should work out how the orangutan and biodiversity can be saved. They should develop ideas which can be realised in school. Afterwards the ideas should be presented to the class (with posters etc.). This should then be discussed in class.