



TEACHER NOTES FOR SAVING WILDCATS SESSION ONE

OVERVIEW AND GENERAL STRUCTURE

Welcome to session one of our two session Saving Wildcats blended learning offer. This is a self-led, teacher facilitated session, utilising online resources that can support learning through our charity's virtual learning portal ZOOdle.

This virtual session is divided into the following content:

- Why we're Saving Wildcats: meet one of the Saving Wildcats experts!
- What is a wildcat: find out what makes a wildcat a wildcat!
- Spot the wildcat: put your new knowledge to the test, can you spot the likely wildcats?
- Wildcats, past, present, and future: travel back in time to discover wildcats' place in history.

It will take approximately 50-60 minutes for learners to explore the virtual content and complete follow up activities. This content supports flexible delivery, such as, utilising expert pupil groupings, Reading stations/rotations, linear paired progression, whole class review and discussion.

CURRICULUM LINKS:

This interdisciplinary contextual learning experience (IDL), cuts across many common themes including the following Curriculum for Excellence Experiences and Outcomes:

CfE Curricular Areas				
Literacy	Sciences	Social Studies	Technologies	Health and Wellbeing
LIT 2-04a LIT 2-07a LIT 2-13a LIT 2-14a LIT 2-26a	SCN 2-01a SCN 2-14a SCN 2-14b	SOC 2-06a SOC 2-08a	TCH 2-02a	HWB 2-11a HWB 2-20a
Wider links				
Learning for Sustainability	UNCRC		Developing the Young Workforce	
Sustainable Development Goals: 15 – Life on Land – Protect Restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests. Combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and habitat loss.	Rights of the Child: 13. The right to find information 17. The right to get information. 28. The right to education. 29. Your education should help develop your personality		Career Education Standard: I can apply my skills to get more information about jobs/careers. I can use the online tools available to me.	



DIFFERENTIATION:

- Screen readers may be utilised with text-based content.
- We would recommend teacher/LA support or mixed ability pairings.
- Where possible, visual, and audible content has provided.
- Comprehension tasks can be facilitated using Interactive Whiteboards and whole class check-in's and/or modelling.

LEARNING INTENTION:

We are learning to identify living things and understand how characteristics can affect survival.

SUGGESTED SUCCESS CRITERIA:

I can share 3 ways of identifying a wildcat

I can describe the threats facing wildcats in Scotland

I can define the terms hybrid, feral and domestic.

KEY VOCAB FOR TEACHERS AND LEARNERS:

WILDCAT – A small native cat species, similar to but distinct from domestic cats; lives across Europe.

FERAL – An animal that lives in the wild but is descended from or was previously kept by people.

DOMESTICATED – Animals or plants brought under human control to provide food, power, or company.

INTERBREEDING – The breeding of animals with another species, resulting in a **hybrid**.

SPECIES – A group of animals with similar features that can breed and produce fertile offspring.

HYBRIDISATION – Producing an animal or plant from two different types of animal or plant.

RESTORATION – Returning something to its earlier, better, condition.

CONSERVATION – The protection of animals, plants and natural areas (ecosystems).

PERSECUTION – The hunting, shooting, trapping, or killing of an animal for sport or historic land management.

EXTINCTION – The dying out of a species, i.e. Dinosaurs, Dodo, Woolly Mammoth.

REAFFORESTATION – The action of planting trees on an area of land that used to have trees, recreating the forest habitat.

CAIRNGORMS – An area in the northern part of Scotland, much of which is protected as a national park.

PREDATOR – An animal that hunts and eats another animal.



ACTIVITIES: AN OVERVIEW OF CONTENT



WHY WE'RE SAVING WILDCATS

Join Saving Wildcats team member Helena Parsons as she discusses the important work that RZSS' Saving Wildcats team is doing to help this amazing Scottish native.

Follow up activities:

- "Wild words" a glossary definitions matching game
- "Wildcat's word search" - word recognition to support familiarity.



WHAT IS A WILDCAT

Explore the unique features of Scotland's wildcats through a visual exploration of their physical features.

Follow up activities:

- "Wildcat Lifecycle" drag the correct statements to the matching images.
- "Colouring Sheet" a line sketch fast finisher that can be coloured and labelled.



SPOT THE WILDCAT

Students take on the role of a field conservationist, as they try to spot potential wildcats using real camera trap and reported sighting imagery.

Follow up activities:

- "Wildcat, Hybrid of Feral " a flip card game.
- "Camera Trap Pairing" spotting Wildcat amongst other native species.



WILDCATS PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Using an interactive timeline, learn all about the history of this amazing native species, its place in Scottish culture and the history of its decline and efforts to save it from extinction.

Follow Up:

- "What happened when for wildcats" - A sequencing activity.



EXTENDING THE LEARNING:

It is appreciated that some teachers may wish to extend the learning around Saving Wildcats, and we welcome your efforts to connect your learners to nature, supporting their desire to protect, value and love the world around us. To ensure that there is clarity and limited repetition a short summary of session two follows:

Session two – A delivered session featuring a member of the RZSS team. Covering:

- Revision of session one's learning around the features of wildcats and their threats
- Exploration of Wildcat's and their role in our ecosystem
- Game based exploration of the range of roles involved in Saving Wildcats and promoting responsible choices amongst learners.

Complimentary activity suggestions:

- Create a range of Wildcat imagery using collage, tone, line and shape or 3D modelling.
- Explore the role of a conservationist using My World of Work or similar resources.
- Investigate further links between Wildcats "*cat-fiadhaich*" and Scottish Culture through mythology and folklore.
- Visualise and measure scale and size through mapping the Cairngorms, explore Wildcat dimensions through practical activities.
- Consider investigating further native species: [RZSS: Bonnie Beasts of Scotland](#)