

Introduction

Zoos is a PowerPoint template that pupils use to produce their own ICT presentation describing the habitat, diet, and lifestyle of an animal in the wild and at Chester Zoo. The zoo context has been chosen because it allows pupils, should they wish, to focus their presentation on conservation work. Also, by comparing the zoo habitat with the natural habitat, pupils become more aware of the adaptations displayed by their animal.

Alternatively, you may choose to introduce the activity through a scenario. For example, pupils are cage designers producing a suitable enclosure for their animal. They will be presenting to the zoo board, and must justify their design in terms of the needs of their animal, its natural habitat and adaptations. Alternatively they could be a conservationist campaigning for funding for a breeding programme, or a zookeeper presenting an educational talk to younger pupils.

A PowerPoint presentation consists of a series of slides that can include images and/or text. More advanced presentations may also include sounds and movie clips. Pupils select information from a resource document and insert this text into their presentation. They select relevant images provided on the PowerPoint template and use these to illustrate their presentation. They can also insert information that they have researched from other sources. This activity should be accessible to a wide range of abilities.

Running the activity

Pupil familiarity with PowerPoint varies considerably, depending on the ICT curriculum across school and their own individual experience. Arrange pupils in groups, preferably pairs, depending on the number of computers you have available. You could encourage pupils to work with a partner who is more confident with ICT if they feel daunted, but generally pupils learn the basics for using PowerPoint very quickly. The presentation template has deliberately been kept very simple to facilitate this. An Introduction page follows these teacher notes. Use it as an OHT, or copy the text into a new PowerPoint slide, and show it via a digital projector to illustrate to pupils how they will give their presentation.

Pupils begin the activity by researching their animal. *W/S Planning your presentation* can be used to guide them through this process. Alternatively, pupils could design a flowchart with the title for each slide and a brief summary of its content. You can extend the research activity by providing time for them to visit websites and use texts to gather additional information, especially additional images. Small points could be noted down on their resource document to enhance the information they have selected. Images and information from websites can be copied and pasted into a document which they can use as they build their presentation.

Pupils may also scan in photographs if you have the necessary equipment and ICT support. Details of how to import images from the Internet are included on the pupil *W/S Designing your presentation*. This *W/S* also explains how to change the order of slides, create new slides in the presentation, type in and edit text, etc.

Pupils produce their presentation. This should take one – two lessons depending on lesson length. Encourage pupils who progress quickly through their presentation to enhance their slides with further illustrations. Many are available through clipart, particularly if they have access to the Internet. Ideally presentations should be made using a digital projector onto a screen or white board. If this is not available the alternative is to print the slides onto overhead transparencies. The transparencies and ink required to do this for a whole class would be fairly costly.

More ideas

- Pupils could produce an adaptations summary sheet that they swap with another group that has researched a different animal. Groups that finish quickly could work together to do this for the whole class.
- Presentations could be displayed on the school website.
- Select a presentation to send to ASE to be displayed on the Science Year website.
- If your school has a website pupils could combine their presentations to produce a virtual zoo, with a tour through each enclosure.

Learning outcomes

- Select relevant information from more than one source
- Develop ICT skills to communicate information
- Ways in which living things and the environment can be protected
- Habitats support a diversity of plants and animals that are interdependent
- How some organisms are adapted to survive daily and seasonal changes in their habitats

Prior learning

Pupils should be familiar with habitats and food chains.

Where the activity fits in

QCA Unit 7C

Skills

Communication, ICT.

Copyright

ASE would like to thank Chester Zoo for its help in providing information and images. The photographs included in the template have been provided for use during this activity only.

Animal adaptations

You are going to produce a PowerPoint presentation about one of the animals from Chester Zoo.



This activity will help you:

- Learn more about habitats and adaptations
- Develop your ICT skills
- Find out about the zoo's conservation work

You can include several different areas in your presentation:

- Habitat
- Diet
- Adaptations
- Lifestyle
- Reproduction
- The zoo habitat
- Conservation

Use the following to help you:

- Information sheet with basic facts
- *Planning your presentation* help sheet
- *Designing your presentation* help sheet
- Books and the Internet for extra information and images