

Wild Parrot Pets

Standards-Based Activities (4th-5th Grades)

- 1) Reading – “Parrot Problem”
- 2) Reading – Zoo Books
- 3) Writing
- 4) Math
- 5) Answer Page

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“Wild Parrot Pets”

This activity can stand alone or be used as extension materials for the following Environmental Activity Curricula:

Project WILD “Here Today, Gone Tomorrow” p. 170
Project WILD “Rare Bird Eggs for Sale” p. 296

To learn about attending a workshop in Florida to receive these Environmental Curricula Texts, see below.

Project WET – contact Project WET State Coordinator at (386) 329-4752.

Project Learning Tree (PLT) – contact PLT State Coordinator at (850) 222-5646.

Project WILD – contact Project WILD State Coordinator at (850) 488-4676.

Project Aquatic WILD - contact Project WILD State Coordinator at (850) 488-4676.

Schoolyard Wildlife - contact Project WILD State Coordinator at (850) 488-4676.

Wild Parrot Pets

Standards-Based Reading Questions

The Parrot Problem

Most people don't know there's a parrot problem at all. They think it would be fun to own a parrot because parrots are beautiful and can learn to talk. But where do these parrots come from? The law says they should come from a parrot breeder – someone who raises parrots from babies born in captivity. Raising parrots takes time and money – and a lot of dedication to the naked little birds. Some unscrupulous people try to find a cheaper, easier, illegal way to get parrots to sell. They capture wild parrots that are already grown up. These parrots are protected by laws, and it is illegal to catch them. Unfortunately, some people do it anyway.

They put these captured parrots into cramped bags and boxes and try to sneak them into the United States. Very few survive long enough to be sold, but since one Hyacinth Macaw can be sold for up to \$12,000, the parrot poachers keep trying. Like many other parrot species, there less than 5,000 Hyacinth Macaws left in the world. Every time one is stolen to become a pet, that's one less Macaw out in the jungle where they belong. If too many wild birds are illegally captured, it won't be long before the Hyacinth Macaw becomes extinct.

But what can we do? Well, if you want to buy a big parrot, think about purchasing a smaller parakeet or cockatiel instead. These birds are easier to take care of, less expensive, and usually come from breeders, not the jungle. After you get some experience caring for this smaller bird, if you still want a large parrot, be sure to ask the pet storeowner where he bought the birds. If he can't tell you the breeder's name, don't buy it! It might be an illegal parrot from the jungle. If everyone refuses to buy birds that come from the jungle illegally, the parrot poachers won't get any money, and they won't bother stealing them anymore. A little checking on our part can save the lives of thousands of wild parrots. Maybe we can even end the parrot problem!

Resource: "Illegal Bird Trade," [PBS Online](http://www.pbs.org).

[Http://www.wnet.org/nature/parrots/html/body_illegal.html](http://www.wnet.org/nature/parrots/html/body_illegal.html). 2/8/01.

1. The following sentence is in this article: "Some unscrupulous people try to find a cheaper, easier, illegal way to get parrots to sell." Based on context clues, what does the word "unscrupulous" refer to in this sentence?
 - a) People who are kind
 - b) People who are hungry
 - c) People who do not care about the law
 - d) People who do not care about science

Wild Parrot Pets

Standards-Based Reading Questions, continued

2. Based on your reading of the article, why is it important for parrot buyers to ask about where the parrot was bought? Use details and information from the article to support your answer.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

3. Based on your reading of the article, what is the main reason it is illegal to capture parrots from the wild?
- a) Because they can bring diseases into the United States
 - b) Because there aren't very many parrots left in the wild
 - c) Because wild parrots might die after people buy them
 - d) Because wild parrots cost more than breeder parrots

4. What do you think the author's main purpose was in writing this article? Use details and information from the article to support your answer.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

Wild Parrot Pets
Zoo Books article “*People Who Want Unusual Pets*”

Standards-Based Reading Questions

1. Which reason explains why people like to have parrots for pets?
 - a) Parrots have no place to live in the wild anymore.
 - b) People eat parrot eggs for food.
 - c) People think parrots are unusual and beautiful.
 - d) Parrots prefer to live in air conditioned houses.

2. Based on your reading of the article, what should a person thinking of buying a parrot know before they buy a pet parrot?
 - a) Parrots live a really long time and are a long term responsibility.
 - b) Parrots have infectious diseases that can make babies sick.
 - c) Large parrots will attack and kill the other bird pets they have.
 - d) Wild parrots make better pets than legally raised parrots.

3. What do you think the author’s main purpose was in writing this article? Use details and information from the article to support your answer.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

Wild Parrot Pets

Standards-Based Writing Prompts

1. Because parrots are popular pets, many of these birds are smuggled from the wild. Think about how groups of wild parrots are affected as more and more birds are captured. Write to explain the possible affects on groups of wild parrots if parrot poaching continues.
2. Many people enjoy having parrots as pets because they can be trained to speak. Imagine that you've just bought a legally-raised parrot for a pet and are teaching it to speak. Write a story about the day your parrot says his first word.
3. Many baby animals are taken from their mothers in the wild to be illegally sold as pets. Think about what it would be like to be taken from your mother and shipped across the world to be someone's pet. Write to explain how a baby parrot might feel in this situation.
4. Parrots have extremely strong beaks that can break curious fingers reaching into their cages. Think about different ways to prevent accidents like this. Write a poem (four to six lines long) that will be taped to a parrot's cage explaining about his dangerous beak.
5. There are no longer any wild parrots in Florida, except the ones that have escaped from the Parrot Jungle. Imagine that you are travelling to South America to go on a parrot photo safari. Write a story about the day of your photo safari and what you encountered on your journey.

Wild Parrot Pets

Standards-Based Math Questions

1. Forty percent of all wild parrots that are caught by nets end up dying from the capture process. If a parrot poacher brings three wild parrots to the flea market to sell, how many parrots did he have to capture to end up with three still alive? Write to explain how you arrived at your answer.

THINK
SOLVE
EXPLAIN

2. An illegal jungle parrot is sold for \$100 at a pet shop. The pet shop owner only pays \$10 each for the 20 illegally smuggled birds. If 60% of these weakened birds die after they get to his store, how much of a profit does he make on this illegal deal?
- a) \$100
b) \$300
c) \$600
d) \$800
3. The pet shop owner sells his first parrot to an undercover officer from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The pet shop owner is arrested for selling an endangered species and must pay a \$10,000 fine. If he only sells legally raised parrots for a profit of \$20 each, how many legal parrots will he have to sell to pay off his fine?
- a) 200
b) 350
c) 500
d) 650

Wild Parrot Pets - Answers

Writing

For All – Use the rubric for Florida Writes! – 6 points

1. LA.B.1.2.2, LA.B.2.2.3, LA.B.2.2.6 SS.C.1.2.4
2. LA.B.1.2.2, LA.B.2.2.3, LA.B.2.2.5
3. LA.B.1.2.2, LA.B.2.2.3, LA.B.2.2.6
4. LA.B.1.2.2, LA.B.2.2.3, LA.B.2.2.6
5. LA.B.1.2.2, LA.B.2.2.3, LA.B.2.2.5

Math

1. Use the rubric for Extended Response Math Questions – 4 points
MA.A.3.2.2, MA.A.3.2.3

Example of a Top-Score Response

5 parrots were captured in the beginning. If 40% die, then 60% live. 60% equals 3 parrots. So $60/100$ times the number of parrots (x) equals 3. Multiply both sides by 100 gives you 60 times $x = 300$. Divide both sides by 60 gives you $x = 5 =$ the original number of parrots.

2. c) MA.A.3.2.2, MA.A.3.2.3
3. c) MA.A.3.2.2, MA.A.3.2.3

Reading – The Parrot Problem

1. c) LA.A.1.2.3, Bloom's Taxonomy Level one
2. Use the rubric for Short Response Reading Questions – 2 points
LA.A.2.2.1, Bloom's Taxonomy Level one

Example of a Top-Score Response

It is important for parrot buyers to ask where the parrot was bought so they can find out if it came from a legal breeder or if it was illegally captured from the wild. If it's illegal, they shouldn't buy it. This will stop poachers from stealing so many parrots from the wild, so it helps the parrots.

3. b) LA.A.2.2.1, Bloom's Taxonomy Level one

Wild Parrot Pets – Answers, continued

4. Use the rubric for Short Response Reading Questions – 2 points
LA.A.2.2.2, Bloom’s Taxonomy Level one

Example of a Top-Score Response

The author’s main purpose was to educate the reader about the parrot problem, so they can make sure they never buy illegal parrots for pets.

Reading – Zoo Books “People Who Want Unusual Pets”

1. c) LA.A.2.2.1, Bloom’s Taxonomy Level one
2. a) LA.A.2.2.1, Bloom’s Taxonomy Level one
3. Use the rubric for Short Response Reading Questions – 2 points
LA.A.2.2.2, Bloom’s Taxonomy Level two

Example of a Top-Score Response

People who want beautiful, unusual pets are contributing to extinction of these animals in the wild. Over seven million birds are illegally trapped and sold each year, and 3 out of five of these die before they are sold. These illegally captured wild animals are not a good pet choice.