



SERIES

Crimes Against Nature

EPISODES IN THIS SERIES

Hunt for the Whalers, The Real Chainsaw Massacre, Blood Ivory

EDUCATION SHEET EPISODE

Blood Ivory

SCHOOL LEVEL

Junior Secondary

Senior Secondary

EDUCATION DESCRIPTION: Blood Ivory

For more than 25 years, London's Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) has pioneered the use of undercover investigation techniques within the environmental movement. Assuming false identities, their dedicated agents meet face-to-face with criminals, and with hidden cameras, capture priceless video evidence of the contraband, people, and organised criminal networks involved. With unprecedented access to covert operations, this documentary follows EIA's special crime detectors as they probe the murky underworld of environmental crime. The undercover agents risk their lives as they delve into the resurgent, multimillion dollar, shadowy dealings of ivory trade between Africa and China, revealing the socio-economic driving forces at work. With low risk of punishment and massive profit margins, environmental contraband now rivals the drugs and arms smuggling trades. While the challenges are greater than ever, there is hope for resolution.

TEACHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There is a unique bond between humans and elephants that predates history. Fascinated by their majesty, longevity, strength, physical characteristics and intricate behaviour patterns, humans have bonded with elephants through culture, religion and economy. From harnessing the brute strength of these animals to worshipping them as

gods, we have intertwined our lives with theirs over millennia. Unfortunately there is also a dark side to this relationship, and it's all about ill-gotten gains. Ivory from elephant tusks has also been irresistible to humans since prehistoric times, and in many countries is still traded on the black market.

As recently as the last five years, with the rise of China's middle class and a long-lived cultural association with carved ivory as a status symbol, ivory trading is again high on the national agenda.

Enter our heroes from London's Environmental Investigation Agency. After witnessing first-hand the repercussions of elephant poaching in Kenya, the EIA team heads to Hong Kong and China to scrutinise the international ivory trade. Following claims of an upsurge in poaching and ivory smuggling, EIA are determined to uncover the truth. From dramatic, covertly recorded footage in China, the team's investigations reveal shocking new facts about the inner machinations of the ivory smuggling underworld and just how far its powerful tentacles reach.

“With powerful and haunting images, criminals caught in the act by hidden filming and courageous investigators operating on the dangerous front lines of environmental crime, these films dramatically show viewers just how much a small but tightly focused and endlessly dedicated organisation can achieve,” said EIA Executive Director Mary Rice, who leads the investigation in *Blood Ivory Smugglers*.

CURRICULUM POINTERS

Junior Secondary Curriculum

Geography teaching nurtures students' curiosity about places and the differences between them. It responds to their wonder about the world and its diversity, and teaches them how to explore this world directly through field work and indirectly through other types of investigation. It develops a geographical imagination that enables students to relate to other places and people, and to appreciate the cultures and perspectives of others.

Shape of the Australian Geography Curriculum 2011: Introduction

Senior Secondary Curriculum

Geography shows students ways in which they can positively influence their world as active local, national and global citizens by encouraging them to question why things are the way they are, to investigate issues and to evaluate alternative, more sustainable futures. Through exploration and discussion, students develop an informed view of their responsibilities towards the environment and to people throughout the world.

Shape of the Australian Geography Curriculum 2011: Introduction

CURRICULUM OUTCOMES

Junior Secondary

In undertaking these tasks, students of Geography will:

- *develop a sense of wonder, curiosity, knowledge and interest about the variety of environments, peoples, cultures and places that exist throughout the world*
- *explore and gain a good understanding of geographical thinking including its perspectives, concepts and ways of explaining*
- *develop [their] ability to ask geographical questions, plan an inquiry, collect and analyse information, (particularly through fieldwork and spatial technologies), reach conclusions based on evidence and logical reasoning, and communicate their findings in effective ways.*

Shape of the Australian Geography Curriculum 2011: Aims

Senior Secondary

In undertaking these tasks, students of Geography will:

- *Become thoughtful and active local, national and global citizens, and ... understand how they can influence the futures of places*
- *Develop [their] ability to ask geographical questions, plan an inquiry, collect and analyse information ... reach conclusions based on evidence and logical reasoning, and communicate their findings in effective ways*
- *Build the confident and creative use of geographical skills, and ... use these skills to extend their knowledge; make sense of new situations, and to solve problems.*

Shape of the Australian Geography Curriculum 2011: Aims

STUDENT LEARNING TASKS

Junior Secondary

Task 1

Download a map of the world from

<http://maps.nationalgeographic.com/maps>

Click on the map to enlarge it so you can find following places:

- England, London
- Kenya, Nairobi
- Hong Kong
- Macau
- China, Guangzhou, Zhuhai, Guangdong, Beijing.

Now shrink the map again, save it to your files, or print it and paste it into your workbook. Mark the place names above on your map and draw a line that traces the ivory trade from Africa to China. Use different colours for overland, air, and sea routes.

Task 2

Do some Internet research to find 10 differences between African and Asian elephants.

Task 3

Asian elephants once occupied a very wide habitat. So some Internet research to find at least 10 countries where Asian elephants can still be found. Now find out which country has the most number of Asian elephants and which has the least?

Task 4

The world's elephant population is shrinking at an alarming rate. Name three reasons for this and suggest how each of these could be overcome.

Task 5

A survey showed that many Chinese people were unaware that elephants are killed in order to harvest their tusks for ivory. Design an educational poster that illustrates the story of ivory from living elephant to Chinese chopsticks and carvings.

Senior Secondary

Task 1

Elephants have been described as a keystone in the African landscape. Explain what this means in about 50 words, make a list of five ways in which this is so, and in 150 words describe what would happen to the habitat if elephants were completely removed from it.

Task 2

Write a 200-word report about CITES to explain what it stands for, what it does, how, when, where and why it originated, how many countries were original signatories and the current status of both African and Asian elephants according to its species data base.

Task 3

Do some Internet research to find out how, when and why ivory became culturally significant in China. Your report should be 150 words in total.

Task 4

In 200 words describe how economic and political forces in the last five years have contributed to a renewed resurgence in poaching and illegal ivory trading.

Task 5

Write a 150-word letter to your local member of parliament to express your opinion of illegal ivory trading and suggesting a political or diplomatic strategy that could be implemented to stop the Chinese from its participation in the illegal ivory trade. Your letter should be written in a formal, polite, constructive style.