

# Third Grade Endangered Species

## Project Description:

Each third grade student investigated the problem of endangered species by focusing on a particular endangered species, either local (within Texas) or global (around the world). This helped students to identify the many threats that species face, to raise awareness, and advocate for changes to help their specific species. Each student conducted guided research and wrote a three-paragraph research paper. Students then went a step further and assumed the animal's point of view in the first two paragraphs, while making a personal plea for their species in their own voices in the final paragraph. In their research, third graders discovered that a common threat facing many endangered species is habitat loss. Students built "birds" and attempted to migrate along a route of shrinking and fragmented habitats to illustrate the dangers facing species trying to survive with both decreasing resources and increasing threats. Then, students utilized the AJA makerspace to build healthy habitats for their animals. In a collaborative effort with art teacher Ms. Slomowitz, students used images of their endangered animals to construct a clay base for a papier-mache mask. Finally, students engaged with word problems to calculate possible population outcomes and lifespans of their endangered species.

