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Attitudes

Skills

Curious: A kid explorer is curious about endangered big cat species and seeks to discover information about their habitats, diets, behaviors, and populations.

Responsible: A kid explorer realizes how serious the situation is for many big cat species, and that it is critical to support conservation efforts.

Empowered: A kid explorer learns how to independently research information and then use that research to take action to save the remaining big cats.

Observation: A kid explorer collects and interprets information from researching big cat species, and travels to the renowned Henry Doorly Zoo to observe, in person, the animal they researched.

Communication: A kid explorer is a storyteller, and communicates what they researched and learned by using technology to create a final project.

Collaboration: A kid explorer works with classmates and teachers to learn the fundamentals of conducting research with the topic of big cats as the focus of their final project.

Problem Solving: A kid explorer evaluates the problem of endangered species around the world and identifies ways to support conservation efforts in order to make a difference and save big cats in danger of extinction.



Knowledge: **Critical Species**

University mascots can uniquely energize K-12 students, university alumni, and college students, thus big cat mascots have an unparalleled ability to advance the Big Cats Initiative at National Geographic in order to save critical species.

“Revealing, celebrating, and helping to protect the amazing and diverse creatures we share our world with”. The GAI seeks to enlist university mascots to advance National Geographic’s Big Cats Initiative (BCI) which advocates for education and community outreach to save endangered big cat species around the world. The GAI has worked with big cats and South Hamilton Elementary (Jewell, IA) to involve 5th grade students in the BCI. The students learned about environmental conservation and created their very first research projects about big cats and other endangered species. The GAI brought UNI’s big cat panther mascots, TC and TK, to South Hamilton, and students shared their projects with them and explained to them how they conducted research to create a final project. The 5th graders will also travel to the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, NE to see the animals they researched in person.

The 5th graders were so passionate about their projects and came to realize how threats to endangered species are a serious problem around the world, and how conservation efforts are needed to save them. They became kid explorers by researching critical species and learning why it is important to take a stand to make a difference in our world.



Adapted from NGS; created by Mollie Ullestad,
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