



Bring 'Em Back (Learning Experience #2) Student Procedures



Lesson Essential Question: What is the value of returning an extirpated species to an ecosystem?

Procedures

Note: You will work in a project team of three or four students. Team answers to the questions below should be recorded in your individual journal. Each team should be ready to contribute to a class discussion on each topic.

1. Copy the essential question for *Bring 'Em Back* (LE#2) into your journal and write a preliminary answer to it. You will return to this question at the end of the learning experience.
2. Look at the pictures of merchandise that has been sold by states and private organizations to help fund the expenses involved in reintroducing river otters to their original habitats. Reflect on spending time, effort and money on saving species that are disappearing from an ecosystem or reintroducing a species to its native habitat. In your journal, write an argument for or against saving endangered species.
3. You will be assigned to a project team by your teacher. Your team will play the role of an organization that is considering a project with the goal of reintroducing river otters to the streams and lakes in your region. You must organize a presentation for government agencies and non-profit groups that will result in offers of funding and volunteers for the next five years. Discuss your strategy, make notes in your journals, and complete *Why Should we Care?* (Student Sheet #1).
4. Share your ideas by creating promotional materials such as a script for a media spot, poster or brochure meant to encourage public support for your funding. Your group's materials, including text, photos and/ or graphics, should catch people's attention and include mention of the major points in your presentation to the funders.



5. Assume that the funding groups give a green light to your reintroduction project. Complete *Welcome Home* (Student Sheet #2) with your team, listing the habitat characteristics that you will look for before capturing otters from other areas and introducing them to new territories. Predict the impact of the otters on their new habitat and make suggestions for sustaining the otter population in their new location.
6. Share your plans with your classmates by creating a combined *Home for Otters* chart. Your team will address one part of the plan and explain your ideas by citing research that you have done.
7. Now that you have studied the reintroduction of river otters to their original habitats, use a list of endangered or extirpated species for your state find a plant or animal species that was once found in your local area. Choose a species to research that you think should be reintroduced to your area. You should complete an abbreviated version of the presentation that you created for the otter funding groups. Remember that the species may be a plant or animal and does not need to be fuzzy or pretty in order to be important to its habitat.