Web of Life

Activity

Ricky’s family battle with Deforestation

By

Alma Alexandra Rodriguez

Gibbon Conservation Center

January 2014 Modified September 2015

**CHARACTER CONNECTIONS**

GIBBON - live in trees/ eat birds, fruit & insects

TREE - depends on gibbons to disperse seeds in their poop/ & insects to pollinate

BIRD – live in trees/ eat fruit & insects

INSECT – live in trees

SNAKE – live in trees/ eat birds

**SOUNDS**

GIBBON – whoop whoop wooo

TREE - shhhhhhhhhh

BIRD – tweet tweet tweet

INSECT – bzzzzzzzz

SNAKE – ssssssssssss

ALL CHANT - We are all connected (after the character “dies”)

**MOVEMENTS**

GIBBON - swings arms above - brachiate

TREE - wave arms above

BIRD – move arms at sides - flying

INSECT – jump 3 times

SNAKE – wiggle

**-BEFORE BEGINNING-**

Before beginning this prompt engage the students in a discussion by having them identify the main elements of the story? As the story progresses explain/ discuss the character connections.

Use these questions as a guide

What is a gibbon?

What is a poacher?

What is a logger?

What is a habitat?

What is territory?

What is a plantation?

You can proceed with the activity in two different ways.

The first option is to pick five students to stand in front of the class and portray the 5 characters (gibbon, tree, bird, insect, snake). You can either have them hold a sign or dress up in a costume. Split the rest of the students into 5 groups to make a sound of each of the characters (gibbon, tree, bird, insect, snake). With each death the student portraying the character sits down.

The second option is to split the entire class into four groups. Then label each group with at least 5 characters. It is likely that there will be repeat characters in each group. During this option the individual students will make both the sound and movement of their character during the cutting of strings scene. The 1st group will sit down during the cutting of strings scene in Day#2 Poachers. The 2nd group will sit down during the cutting of strings scene in Day#3 Loggers. The 3rd group will sit down during the cutting of strings scene in Day#4 Habitat Encroachment. The 4th and final group will sit down during the cutting of strings scene in Day#5 Palm Oil Plantation.

**-ACTIVITY-**

**Day #1**

-----CHARACTER SOUNDS ---- use something to prompt kids

Like every other morning high in the forest canopy a family of gibbons sing their morning territorial call but something is different. Today mother Ricky has given birth to Dennis and he is clinging to her belly. The whole family has come over to check him out. First the father Vok comes to take a look at his newest son. Then older brother Canter joins in grooming the baby & eventually older sister Pepper. This is the first time Pepper has had a younger sibling & she is very excited and gives him a hug and kiss. After they all check him out they begin moving through the forest to find food they play and sing and when they find a fruit tree they stop to eat. There are other animals & insects in the tree as well, it is a nice day eventually everyone finds a branch on a tree close by and settles down to sleep

**Day#2 POACHERS**

The next morning before Ricky’s family sings their morning call they hear another family of gibbons making an alarm call. They too begin making alarm call the forest is uneasy and all the animals are making sounds.

----- CHARACTER SOUNDS ----

When the noise dies down Ricky’s family can see poachers carrying out a family of gibbons, and birds from the forest.

----CUTTING STRINGS------- (cut strings after each sentence symbolizes removal or death. Each individual (child) makes a sound & movement following “death”)

**GIBBON** has been removed from the forest.

**BIRD** has been removed from the forest.

**SNAKES** eat birds without birds snakes will die.

Gibbons help disperse seeds of the **TREES** without gibbons no new trees will grow.

Without trees **INSECTS** will have no place to live.

These strings have been cut because

-----CHANT----- We are all connected. ---- (use something to prompt kids)

Everyone in the forest goes to sleep.

**Discussion (prompt students)**

What happened?

Why were the trees removed when the gibbons were taken from the forest?

**Day#3 LOGGERS**

The next morning the forest sounds a little quieter than the day before. But the animals continue making sounds as usual.

---- CHARACTER SOUNDS----

Ricky’s family travels through the forest but suddenly stops when they hear a loud noise. The sound is coming from a chain saw. The loggers are cutting down trees the family cannot go any farther they must go a different way or return to where they started. They can no longer sleep in that tree tonight.

----CUTTING STRINGS-------

A **TREE** has been removed from the forest.

Without trees **INSECTS** will have no place to live.

Without insects **BIRDS** can’t eat.

Without birds **SNAKES** will die.

Without trees **GIBBONS** will have no place to sleep.

These strings have been cut because

----- CHANT----- We are all connected

Everyone in the forest goes to sleep.

**Discussion (prompt students)**

Why did all the animals disappear when the trees were removed?

What are the two types of trees gibbons rely on in the forest? (eat/live)

What happens if they have no food?

**Day #4 HABITAT ENCROACHMENT**

Like every other morning Ricky’s family sings their morning territorial call. The rest of the forest joins in

------ CHARACTER SOUNDS ------

After they’ve finished they’re off to go find something to eat. They are swinging through the forest and suddenly come to a stop. The place where their favorite fig tree used to be has been replaced with a village.

----CUTTING STRINGS-------

A **TREE** has been removed from the forest.

Without fruit trees **INSECT** will have no place to live & nothing to eat.

Without insects and fruit trees **BIRDS** will have nothing to eat.

Without birds **SNAKES** will have nothing to eat.

Without fruit trees, birds, or insects **GIBBONS** will have nothing to eat.

These strings have been cut because

-----CHANT----- We are all connected.

Ricky’s family has had a hard time finding a place to sleep. The trees are becoming very crowded because there are fewer and fewer trees. They almost got into a fight with a neighbor because they have to share the little space they have. Eventually everyone goes to sleep.

**Discussion (prompt students)**

What would happen if ½ the houses in your neighborhood were removed?

Where would your family go? (What would happen if gibbons went on the ground?)

What would happen if you had to share a house with two other families?

**Day#5 PALM OIL PLANTATION**

Ricky’s family wakes up and begins singing

----- CHARACTER SOUNDS-----(cut short )

but they quickly stop. They look around and they have no place to move. Ricky’s family is surrounded by palm oil plantations. There are no trees to sleep on there are no trees to eat from, there are no trees to play on, and there are no trees to claim as their own. Ricky’s family makes a desperate attempt to flee by climbing down for the first time to the floor. They are much slower than they are in the trees and pretty soon they are captured. Then the last tree is cut.

----CUTTING STRINGS-------

A **TREE** has been removed from the forest.

**GIBBONS** have been removed from the forest.

Without trees **INSECT** will have no place to live.

Without insects to eat and trees to live in **BIRDS** cant survive.

Without birds to eat **SNAKES** cant survive.

These strings have been cut because

-----CHANT----- We are all connected.

**Day#6**

This morning it is quiet there is nothing left

These strings have been cut because

-----CHANT----- We are all connected.

**Discussion (prompt students)**

Even though we may have taken away only one character each time all the characters were eventually removed. Why do you think that happened?

How does it make you feel?

Do you think there is anything we can do to prevent this from continuing to happen?