

# Student or Family Think Tank Team Guidelines



*Get to work researching your species!  
Your research will help you take positive action for your species and the planet!*

**Your Team can include just you OR Your FAMILY!**

## IN THIS PACKET:

- Think Tank Team Guidelines
- Think Tank Team Meeting Sheets (print meeting sheets or answer meeting sheet questions on loose leaf paper or in a notebook)
  - Meeting sheets will guide your research
- Think Tank Team Species Lists
- Think Tank Team Resource Links for Research

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Loose leaf paper or notebook
- Pen or pencil
- Drawing paper and art supplies

## ***DIRECTIONS***

### Think Tank Teams:

- Review Problems impacting species : p. 2
- Select a species from the species list: pp. 3-7
- Review Think Tank Team OVERVIEW: p. 11

### Using Resource Links on pages: 8-10 and Guidelines & Meeting Sheets starting on p. 12:

- Research species facts, adaptations and how a species contributes to ecosystem
- Investigate problems impacting species
- Cite (List) evidence of the problem
- Formulate solutions to protect and save the species
- Share knowledge with friends and family! Share knowledge by creating:
  - Poster or Flyer
    - Put poster in your house or car window or post on social media
  - Video to post on social media
  - Report or Slideshow to email to friends or family or post to social media

***\*When posting to social media use hashtag: #kidsforpositivechange***

- Create Classroom-Community Action Assignment

## **Species & Problems Impacting Species:**

### **Topic: Sharks & Sea Turtles**

#### **Issues:**

1. PLASTIC Pollution: (bags, bottles, pieces, straws)
2. Trash: (cigarettes, rope, fishing net, soda cans, balloons, styrofoam, six-ring holder)
3. Oil and Tar
4. Bycatch
5. Overfishing, Illegal fishing, Longline fishing
6. Poaching (sea turtle eggs)
7. Shark finning
8. Run off (from chemical plants & Industrialized Farms (aka: factory farms))
9. Climate Change

### **Topic: Parrots & Backyard Birds**

#### **Issues:**

1. Deforestation and Habitat Loss
2. Poison (lead bullets & rodent poison)
3. Window Strikes
4. Tar & Oil, Trash
5. Plastic Pollutions and trash (six-pack rings, bottles, bags, pieces, straw, cigarette, styrofoam) Illegal Pet Trade
6. Feral Cats
7. Climate Change

### **Topic: Bees, Bugs & Butterflies**

#### **Issues:**

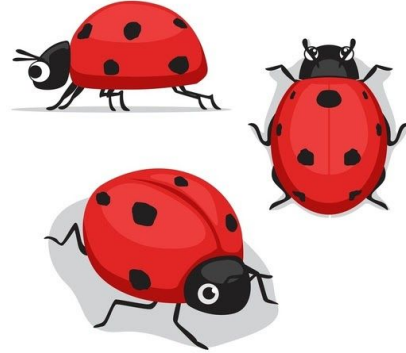
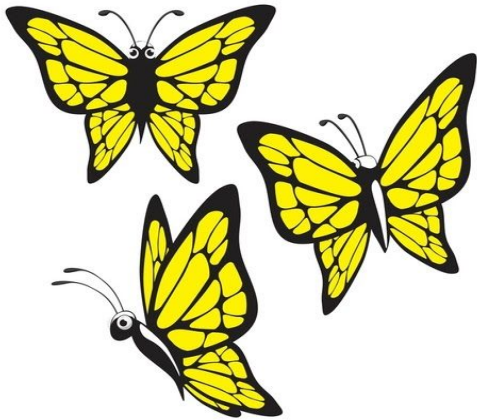
1. Pesticides, Herbicides, Insecticides (main: Neonics)
2. Habitat Loss
3. Invasive Species
4. Loss of viable food sources
5. Climate Change

### **Topic: Elephants & Orangutans / Endangered Species**

#### **Issues:**

1. Poaching
2. Deforestation and Palm Oil Plantations
3. Illegal Pet Trade
4. Climate Change

## Species List: Bees, Bugs & Butterflies



1. Monarch Butterfly
2. Ladybug
3. Sapphire Tarantula
4. Dung Beetle
5. Honey Bee
6. Buff-Tailed Bumblebee
7. Bulldog Ant
8. Honey-pot Ant
9. Diving Bell Spider
10. Giraffe Weevil
11. Rajah Brooke's Birdwing Butterfly
12. Blue Morpho Butterfly
13. Atlas Moth
14. Comet Moth
15. Praying Mantis
16. Cicada
17. Peacock Spider
18. Goliath Bird-Eating Tarantula
19. Earthworm
20. Cockroach
21. Damselfly
22. Firefly
23. Dead leaf Butterfly
24. Dragonfly
25. Lobster Moth
26. Neon Cuckoo Bee
27. Tarantula Hawk
28. Carpenter Bee
29. Giant Long-legged Katydid
30. Wheel Bug



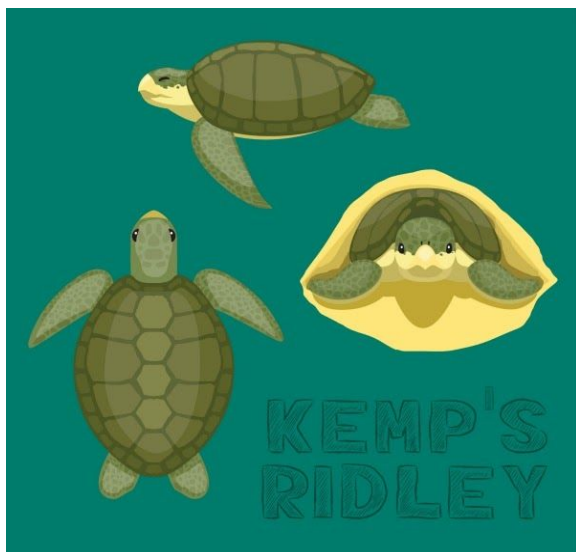
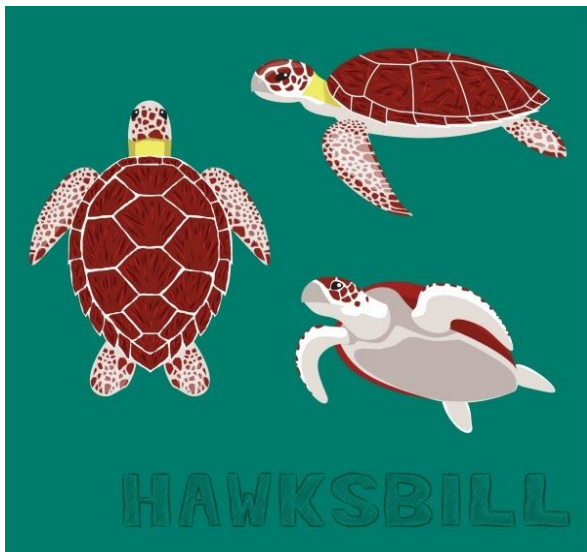
**Species List : Sharks**

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1.) Whale Shark             | 18.) Blacktip Reef Shark |
| 2.) Great White Shark       | 19.) Angelshark          |
| 3.) Hammerhead Shark        | 20.) Sawshark            |
| 4.) Thresher Shark          | 21.) Leopard Shark       |
| 5.) Mako Shark              | 22.) Sand Tiger Shark    |
| 6.) Basking Shark           | 23.) Cookiecutter Shark  |
| 7.) Oceanic White Tip Shark | 24.) Nurse Shark         |
| 8.) Tiger Shark             | 25.) Ragged Tooth Shark  |
| 9.) Greenland Shark         |                          |
| 10.) Bull Shark             |                          |
| 11.) Blue Shark             |                          |
| 12.) Horn Shark             |                          |
| 13.) Goblin Shark           |                          |
| 14.) Porbeagle Shark        |                          |
| 15.) Dogfish Shark          |                          |
| 16.) Lantern Shark          |                          |
| 17.) Sixgill Shark          |                          |



**Species List: Sea Turtles**

- 1.) Green Sea Turtle
- 2.) Leatherback Sea Turtle
- 3.) Flatback Sea Turtle
- 4.) Hawksbill Sea Turtle
- 5.) Loggerhead Sea Turtle
- 6.) Olive Ridley Sea Turtle
- 7.) Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle

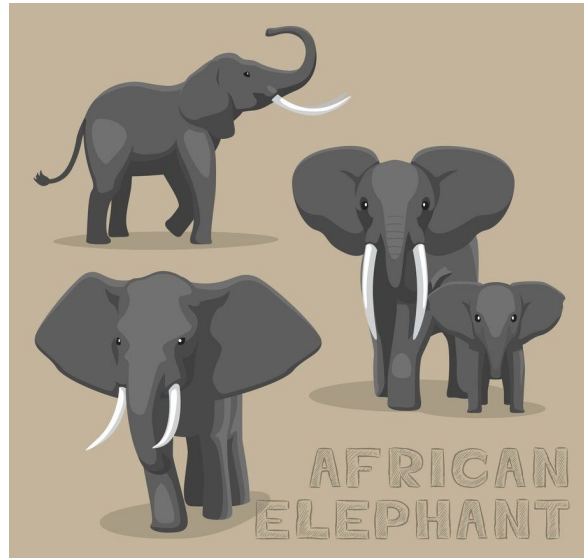




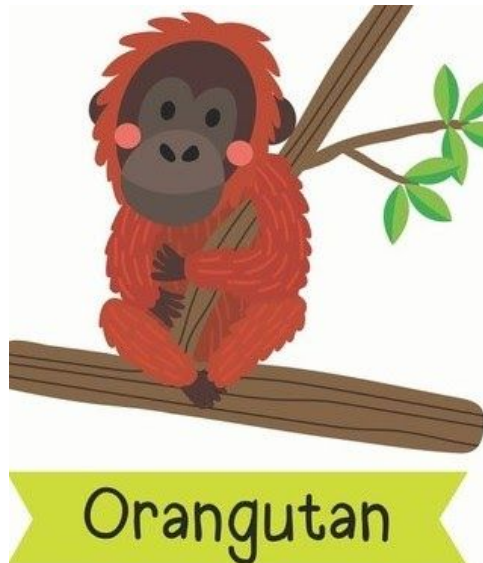
**Species List: Birds**

- |                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Cardinal              | 23. Hyacinth Macaw    |
| 2. Hummingbird           | 24. Green Wing Macaw  |
| 3. Bunting               | 25. African Grey      |
| 4. Blue Jay              | 26. Palm Cockatoo     |
| 5. European Starling     | 27. Lorikeet          |
| 6. Robin                 | 28. Frigatebird       |
| 7. Sparrow               | 29. Vulture           |
| 8. Flycatchers           | 30. Piping Plover     |
| 9. Wren                  | 31. Red Crossbill     |
| 10. Kingfisher           | 32. Eurasian Hoopoe   |
| 11. Rosella              | 33. Ibis              |
| 12. Rainbow Bee-eater    | 34. Spoonbill         |
| 13. Great Blue Heron     | 35. Hornbill          |
| 14. Emperor Penguin      | 36. Crows & Ravens    |
| 15. Blue Footed Boobie   | 37. Pigeons & Doves   |
| 16. Puffin               | 38. I'iwi             |
| 17. Bald Eagle           | 39. Regent Honeyeater |
| 18. Golden Eagle         | 40. Toucan            |
| 19. Harpy Eagle          | 41. Kiwi              |
| 20. Owls                 | 42. Kakapo            |
| 21. Hawks                | 43. Golden Conure     |
| 22. Yellow-headed Amazon | 44. Roadrunner        |

**Species List: Elephants & Orangutans (Bonus Species for 4th Grade)**



1. African Elephant (Savannah Elephant & Forest Elephant)
2. Asian Elephant



1. Bornean Orangutan
2. Sumatran Orangutan

## **Resources for THINK TANK TEAM RESEARCH:**

### **General:**

Nat Geo Kids: <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/>

Ocean Conservancy: <https://oceanconservancy.org/wildlife-facts/>

### **Sharks:**

Discovery Sharks: <https://sharkopedia.discovery.com>

NatGeo: Bull Shark

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/fish/bull-shark/>

NatGeo: Goblin Shark

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/fish/goblin-shark/>

NatGeo: Great White Shark

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/fish/great-white-shark/>

NatGeo: Hammerhead Shark:

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/fish/hammerhead-shark/>

NatGeo: Sandtiger Shark:

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/fish/sand-tiger-shark/>

NatGeo: Sawtooth Shark:

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/fish/sawfish/>



## **Sea Turtles**

NatGeo: Green Sea Turtle

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/reptiles/green-sea-turtle/>

NatGeo: Leatherback Sea Turtle

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/reptiles/leatherback-sea-turtle/>

NatGeo: Loggerhead Sea Turtle

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/reptiles/loggerhead-sea-turtle/>

## **Birds:**

Audubon: <https://www.audubon.org/birds>

Nat Geo Kids: <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/>

## **Bees, Bugs, Butterflies:**

Nat Geo Kids: Honey Bee

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/invertebrates/insects/honeybee/>

Defenders of Wildlife: <https://defenders.org/butterflies/basic-facts>

USDA Forest Service:

<https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/animals/bees.shtml>

Nat Geo: Monarch Butterfly

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/invertebrates/insects/monarch-butterfly/>

### **All Wildlife:**

Nat Geo Kids: <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/>

World Wildlife Fund: <https://www.worldwildlife.org/species>

Defenders of Wildlife: <https://defenders.org/animal-factsheets>

### **Wild Places:**

World Wildlife Fund: <https://www.worldwildlife.org/places>

Defenders of Wildlife: <https://defenders.org/landscape-factsheets>

### **Epic Books!**

- Sharks: <https://www.getepic.com/collection/1354947/shark-research>
- Sea Turtles: <https://www.getepic.com/collection/1354949/sea-turtle-research>
- **Class Code: bzx5605**

Turtles: <https://www.getepic.com/app/user-collection/1354949>

Sharks: <https://www.getepic.com/app/user-collection/1354947>

Birds and Insects: Build Your Own Library! Use:  
<https://www.getepic.com/app/my-library/collections>

**USE BOOKS from your home or local library too!**

**Additional Resources and Activities:**

<http://www.ocearch.org/#curriculum> (Sharks)

<https://www.sisbro.com/fun-activities> (Sharks)

[http://www.audubonadventures.org/Teach\\_Welcome.htm](http://www.audubonadventures.org/Teach_Welcome.htm) (Birds)

**OVERVIEW of Think Tank Team Meetings: (modify as needed for remote learners)**

**1st Meeting:** Create Think Tank Teams. Team members **choose species to research**. Team members **discuss and decide on a team name and create team logo**.

**2nd and 3rd Meetings:** Teams **research and document facts**, unique **adaptations, skills, features, habitat & how the species contributes to a healthy ecosystem**.

**4th and 5th Meetings:** Teams research and document **problems** impacting species. Using poster board & markers, Teams will create a **Team Poster** and list facts about species and problems impacting species. Add drawings to the posters! (see example on page 20)

**6th and 7th Meetings:** Teams generate and document **Solutions** to save and protect species. Team **adds solutions** to Team Poster. (see example on page 20)

**8th and 9th Meetings:** Teams create and list, step by step, **Positive Action Plan**

**10th Meeting:** Teams share knowledge through a project: oral report, slideshow, video, article or social media post

**\*Teams use Meeting Sheets to complete projects.**

**Teams Schedule a time** to present projects to class, school, family and/or community

- Team members introduce themselves at the beginning of the report
  - (Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_)
- Team member introduces his/her Team by the Team Name
  - (We are the Turtle Savers Team!)
- Team introduces species
  - (Today we will share our knowledge about Green Sea Turtles)

**OPTIONAL: Choose a main role in your team or trade off roles**

- a. **Fact-Checker**-Makes sure facts are correct
- b. **Photographer/Filmographer** - Films and photographs team progress
- c. **Techie** - Documents information on computer, creates slideshow
- d. **Artist/Designer**- Creates graphics, logos and pictures for team documents
- e. **Writer/Editor** - Writes and edits all content for letters, slideshows and speeches
- f. **Speaker** - Voice of the Team
- g. **Organizer** -Arranges team meetings, roll call, organizes all documents

### **1st Meeting:**

- Create Think Tank Teams
- Teams members **choose species to research**
- Team members **discuss and decide on a team name and create team logo**

### **NEEDED:**

Reference Books from your personal or local library and Resource Links on pp. 8-10

Chromebook or Computer for Research

Pen/Pencil: 1 per student

Journal or loose leaf notebook paper

Species List on pp. 3-7 (View or Print)

1st Team Meeting Sheet p. 13 (View or Print)

**TIME:** 45 minutes - 1 hour or longer

### **DETAILS: Modify for remote learners**

1. Allow students to get acquainted with their team members by sharing their favorite animal or favorite part of the KPC presentation: 5 minutes
2. Give each team Species List
3. Using enrichment books, chromebooks and computers, give team members time to research species from the list and write information on notebook paper: 15-20 minutes
4. Ask each team to decide on a species to research as a team: \*team can vote on a species, or place many species names in a bowl and draw 1 species: 10 minutes
5. Have Team choose a **Team Name** (they can vote or place names in a bowl and draw a name): 10 minutes
6. On the 1st meeting sheet (next page), have a member of each team write the Team Name and have all Team Members write their names: 5 minutes

**Time permitting:** Have Teams create a **Team LOGO**

*Team Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Team Members:*

1.) \_\_\_\_\_

2.) \_\_\_\_\_

3.) \_\_\_\_\_

4.) \_\_\_\_\_

5.) \_\_\_\_\_

6.) \_\_\_\_\_

*Team Species*

\_\_\_\_\_

*Draw Team Logo Here or on the back of this paper:*

## **2nd & 3rd Meeting:**

Teams research and document facts, unique adaptations, skills, features & how the species contributes to a healthy ecosystem. Where does species live? (continent, country, state)

### **\*Facts to Include:**

- Unique adaptations
- Unique features and skills
- How the species contributes to a healthy ecosystem
- Where does the species live? (continent, country, state, body of water)

### **NEEDED:**

Reference Books from your personal or local library and Resource Links on pp. 8-10

Chromebook or Computer for Research

Pen/Pencil: 1 per student

Journal or loose leaf notebook paper

Species List on pp. 3-7 (View or Print)

2nd & 3rd Team Meeting Sheet p. 15 (View or Print)

**TIME:** 45 minutes - 1 hour or longer

### **DETAILS:**

1. Allow team members to "check-in" with their team members. **Has anyone read or seen anything related to their species?** : 5-10 minutes
2. Team members answer questions listed on 2nd & 3rd Meeting Sheet. Teams **research, discuss, share** and **write facts** about species.

### **REVIEW:**

#### **Species Facts:**

What are some of your species **Unique Adaptations?**

**REVIEW: Definition of Adaptation:** *"To change in order to increase the chances of surviving in a specific environment."* - Oceans, National Geographic Kids, p. 60

- List your species **Unique Features.**
- What are your species **Unique Skills?**
- How does your species contribute to a **Healthy Ecosystem?**
- Where does your species live? (**Continent, Country, State, Body of Water**)

3.) Have a member of each team **collect answers (data)** from each team member and write on 2nd & 3rd Meeting Page (next page)

4.) **Time permitting:** Teams can create a team LOGO\* draw logo on 1st Meeting Sheet

**Team Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

What are some of your species **Unique Adaptations?** Adaptations help species survive.

List or draw your species **Unique Features and Skills**

**FEATURES:**

**SKILLS:**

How does your species contribute to a **Healthy Ecosystem?**

Where does your species live? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Need more room? Use the back of this paper)

### **4th & 5th Meeting:**

- Teams research and document **problems**, impacting species.
- Using poster board & markers, Teams create a **Team Poster** and list facts about species and problems impacting species. \*Team add drawings to their posters\*

### **NEEDED:**

Reference Books from your personal or local library and Resource Links on pp. 8-10  
Chromebook or Computer for Research  
Pen/Pencil: 1 per student  
Journal (1 per student)  
Poster Board or Large Pieces of Paper  
Markers, Crayons, Colored Pencils  
4th & 5th Team Meeting Sheet p. 17 (View or Print)

**TIME:** 45 minutes - 1 hour or longer

### **DETAILS:**

1. Allow team members to "check-in" with their team members. **Has anyone read or seen anything related to their species?** : 5-10 minutes
2. Team members answer questions listed on 4th & 5th Meeting Sheet. Team members **research, discuss, share** and **write problems impacting** their species.

### **REVIEW:**

#### **Problems Impacting Species: (Cause & Effect)**

What are some **Problems** Impacting Your Species?

Who or What is **causing** these problems?

How do these problems **affect** your species?

What is the **cascading effect** that can occur (happen) if your species becomes **extinct**?

**REVIEW: Cascading Effect:** "Taking a species out of the food chain can negatively impact other species, including humans."

2b. Using poster board, crayons, markers and colored pencils, have Teams create a **Team Poster** with drawings reflecting their species and problems impacting their species. Have Teams write their Team Name on the poster. **(SEE PAGE 20 for SAMPLE POSTER)**

3. Have a member of each team **collect answers (data)** from each team member and write on 4th & 5th Meeting Page (next page)

4. **Time permitting:** Teams can create a team LOGO or journal



**Team Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

List or draw **Problems** Impacting Your Species?

Who or What is **causing** these problems?

How do these problems **effect** your species?

Name the **cascading effect** that can occur (happen) if your species becomes **extinct**?

**REVIEW: Cascading Effect:** "Taking a species out of the food chain can negatively impact other species, including humans."

(Need more room? Use the back of this paper)

### **6th & 7th Meeting:**

- Teams generate and document **Solutions** to save and protect species.
- Team adds solutions to Team Poster.

#### **NEEDED:**

Reference Books from your personal or local library and Resource Links on pp. 8-10

Chromebook or Computer for Research: 2-6 per team

Pen/Pencil: 1 per student

Journal (1 per student)

Poster Board or Large Pieces of Paper: 1-2 per team

Markers, Crayons, Colored Pencils

6th & 7th Team Meeting Sheet p. 19 (View or Print)

**TIME:** 45 minutes - 1 hour or longer

#### **DETAILS:**

1. Allow team members to "check-in" with their team members. **Has anyone read or seen anything related to their species?** : 5-10 minutes
2. Give team members time to *brainstorm, discuss* and *write* their ideas, on ways to save and protect their species.

#### **DISCUSS:**

**Bright Ideas to help save and protect your species are important!**  
**Every idea is a good idea!**

What are some of **your IDEAS** to Save and Protect your Species?

How would your idea **help save and protect** your species?

2b.) Have Teams **ADD** their ideas (words or drawings) to their Team Poster (**SEE PAGE 20 for SAMPLE POSTER**)

3. Have a member of each team **collect answers (data)** from each team member and write on 6th & 7th Meeting Page (next page)

4. **Time permitting:** Teams can create a team LOGO\*, journal, or color

\*Logo can be drawn on 1st Meeting Sheet in the space provided

**Team Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**What** are some of your **IDEAS & SOLUTIONS** to help **Save and Protect** your **Species**?

**How** would your idea and solution **help save and protect** your species?

**ART PROJECT: POSTER or FLYER**

Using poster board, crayons, markers and colored pencils, have Teams create a **Team Poster** with drawings reflecting their species and problems impacting their species.  
 Write Team Name on the poster.

**NEEDED:**

- Large Poster Board
- Markers
- Colored Pencils
- Crayons

Sample Team Poster

**Think Tank Team Name Here**

Write → **Our Animal is a \_\_\_\_\_**  
 → **It lives \_\_\_\_\_**

Fun Facts	Problems	Solutions
<p>Sea Turtles are the Lawn Mowers of the Ocean.</p> <p>There are 7 species of sea turtles</p> <p>Loggerhead Sea Turtles migrate 3,000 miles!</p>	<p>Plastic Bottles</p> <p>Plastic Bags</p> <p>Plastic Straws</p>	<p>Recycle</p> <p>Use Reusable Bottles</p> <p>Skip the Straw</p> <p>Use Reusable Bags</p>

**Draw Here**





## 8th and 9th Meetings

Teams create and list, step by step, **Positive Action Plan** (Optional)

### **NEEDED:**

Reference Books from your personal or local library and Resource Links on pp. 8-10

Chromebook or Computer for Research

Pen/Pencil: 1 per student

Journal (1 per student)

Poster board 1-2 per team

Markers, Crayons, Colored Pencils

8th & 9th Team Meeting Sheet p. 22 (View or Print)

**TIME:** 45 minutes - 1 hour or longer

### **DETAILS:**

1. Allow team members to "check-in" with their team members. **Has anyone read or seen anything related to their species?** : 5-10 minutes
2. Give team members time to **brainstorm, discuss** and **write** their **plan of action (with steps)**, for their **bright idea(s)** to save and protect their species: 30-35 minutes

### **REVIEW:**

#### Plan of Action

What is your **Plan of Action** for your idea to help Save and Protect your Species?

List **3-5 Steps** for your Plan of Action:

What **materials** do you need? What kind of **help** do you need?

2b.) Have Teams **ADD** their action steps (words or drawings to their Team Poster) **(SEE PAGE 20 for SAMPLE POSTER)**

3. Have a member of each team **collect answers (data)** from each team member and write on 8th & 9th Meeting Page (next page)

**Team Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Explain your **Plan of Action** to help Save and Protect your Species:

List **3-5 Steps** you can take to begin your Plan of Action:

**Who** can help you?

**What** do you need?

Need more room? Use the back of this paper

**10th Meeting: SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE by CREATING A TAKE ACTION PROJECT!**

Use Information on Meeting Sheets 1-9 to Create Informative:

- Report
- Slideshow
- Video
- Article
- More Posters & Flyers
- Social Media Post(s)

**NEEDED:**

Notecards for report

Pencils for report

Team Poster (**SEE POSTER SAMPLE on p. 20**)

Chromebooks or Computer for creating slideshow and social media posts

Smartphone for videos and social media posts

\*If you are posting to social media, include #kidsforpositivechange

**Teams, please include the following if you are doing a report or video:**

- Team members introduce themselves
  - (Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_)
- Team member introduces his/her Team by the Team Name
  - (We are the Turtle Savers Team!)
- Team introduces species
  - (Today we will share our knowledge about Green Sea Turtles)

**IN ADDITION:**

- Document students working in their Think Tank Teams (photos and video).
- Contact local newspapers to interview Think Tank Teams
- Get your Teams involved in Community Events like Art & Craft Fairs, where they can share their knowledge!
- Have Teams create flyers and handouts for their school and community reflecting their research, ideas, solutions and plans of action!

**NOW** Teams implement Plan of Action into Classroom-Community Action Assignments.

***TAKE ACTION!***

**NOW YOU and YOUR TEAM ARE READY FOR YOUR  
TAKE ACTION CLASSROOM-COMMUNITY ACTION ASSIGNMENT!**

***Head to the Kids for Positive Change Website for more  
information! [CLICK HERE](#)***