

# CONSERVATION CONVERSATIONS

## A Conservation Nation Academy Lesson

Please visit [www.conservationnation.org/lessons](http://www.conservationnation.org/lessons) for complete lesson materials including the lesson cards, student worksheet, and vocabulary list.



### TIME REQUIRED

Flexible, 10-30 minutes depending on depth of discussion

### SUMMARY

This lesson provides you with endless possibilities for promoting conversations among your students as they reflect on and share their own feelings and opinions about nature, wildlife, and conservation. This activity is also great to do outdoors on a nice day!

### OBJECTIVES

- Students reflect on and explain their own personal beliefs relating to nature and wildlife conservation.
- Students explore their own conservationist identity.

### MATERIALS AVAILABLE AT [www.conservationnation.org/lessons](http://www.conservationnation.org/lessons)

- Sets of cards for different discussion topics
- “My Conservationist Identity” student worksheet
- Vocabulary list

### INSTRUCTIONS

- To play one round of Conservation Conversations, choose a set of cards and print out one copy of each card. There are five categories you can choose from and five cards in each category. We recommend laminating the cards if you plan to reuse them.
- Once you have your set of five cards ready, choose **three** of those cards and read them aloud. Then place them in three different locations around the room or outside.
- Instruct students to carefully consider all three statements and then stand by the statement that they **MOST AGREE WITH** or **FEEL STRONGEST ABOUT**.
- Remind students that we all have different opinions and feelings, and there are no right or wrong answers in this activity. All viewpoints and opinions should be respected.
- When students have made their choices, have them discuss among themselves why they chose that statement.
- Remove the statement that attracted the most students and replace it with one of the two cards you haven't used yet.
- Ask students to reassess which statement they feel most strongly about and move to the card that they most agree with or feel strongest about. When students have made their choices, have them discuss among themselves why they chose that statement.
- Again, remove the statement that attracted the most students and replace it with the card you haven't yet used.



- Ask students to reassess which statement they feel most strongly about and move to the one that they most agree with or feel strongest about. When students have made their choices, have them discuss among themselves why they chose that statement.
- This time, remove the two statements that attracted the least students, and replace both of those cards with the two cards from rounds 1 and 2 that attracted the most students.
- At this point, you should have the three most popular statements for students to choose from. Ask students to reassess which statement they feel most strongly about and move to the one that they most agree with or feel strongest about. When students have made their choices, discuss as a group why they chose their statements.

## REFLECTION

Use the **Conservationist Identity Worksheet** to help students develop a personal statement about their conservationist identities. In what ways do they value nature and wildlife? What do they want to learn more about?

**Note: Both color and black & white versions of printable cards with the following statements can be downloaded at [www.conservationnation.org/lessons](http://www.conservationnation.org/lessons):**

### WHY I CARE ABOUT WILDLIFE:

- Wildlife conservation is important because wild plants & animals can potentially provide us with new foods, medicines, and inspiration for new inventions that will save lives.
- Wildlife conservation is important because healthy wildlife populations help slow the impacts of climate change.
- Wildlife conservation is important because all animals have a right to exist.
- Wildlife conservation is important because no generation has the right to destroy the wildlife that future generations could enjoy.
- Wildlife conservation is important because nature provides inspiration for creating art, music, and poetry.

### HOW I LIKE TO ENJOY NATURE:

- I prefer to enjoy nature by sitting outside and reading.
- I prefer to enjoy nature by walking or biking outdoors.
- I prefer to enjoy nature by visiting a zoo, aquarium, or botanical garden.
- I prefer to enjoy nature by being on the water, such as boating or kayaking.
- I prefer to enjoy nature by spending time in the garden.

### WHAT BOTHERS ME THE MOST WHEN I AM TRYING TO ENJOY NATURE:

- What bothers me the most when I am trying to enjoy nature is seeing lots of litter.
- What bothers me the most when I am trying to enjoy nature is people being too loud.
- What bothers me the most when I am trying to enjoy nature is seeing pets running off leash or people not picking up after their pets.
- What bothers me the most when I am trying to enjoy nature is not feeling safe in my surroundings.
- What bothers me the most when I am trying to enjoy nature is being worried about bugs, snakes, spiders, or other creatures.



**THE CONSERVATION CAREER THAT INTERESTS ME THE MOST:**

- Wolf Researcher
- Nature Photographer
- Climate Advocate
- Solar Panel Engineer
- Wildlife Veterinarian

**THE WILDLIFE I WOULD MOST LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT:**

- Wolves
- Corals
- Elephants
- Snow Leopards
- Bats

**Feel free to create more cards or have your students make their own!**

We hope you enjoyed this lesson!  
Learn more about Conservation Nation at  
[www.conservationnation.org](http://www.conservationnation.org)



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