

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

A Conservation Nation Academy Lesson

Please visit www.conservationnation.org/lessons for complete lesson materials including the lesson videos, printable cards, and vocabulary list.



TIME REQUIRED

30-40 minutes

SUMMARY

At Conservation Nation, we are focused on lifting barriers for students of all backgrounds and identities in seeing themselves represented in conservation careers, and we are setting out to create lesson materials that feature an ever-growing diverse and inclusive representation of real people doing conservation. This lesson offers you several options for assessing what your students' perceptions of conservation and conservationists are before introducing them to careers and conservationist role models through our activities.

This lesson is inspired by the 'Draw a Scientist' study. For decades, researchers have been asking children to "draw a scientist doing science." The results have contributed to a large body of research into societal perceptions of science, including issues around gender and race. When this study began, more than 99% of the drawings depicted a male scientist. Out of 5,000 drawings collected between 1966 and 1977, only 28 drawings were of female scientists, all of which were drawn by girls. In the decades since then, nearly 80 studies have repeated this experiment with more than 20,000 students across all grade levels, and the results of these studies were published in a [meta-analysis](#) in 2018. Today, children are drawing female scientists more often, and girls are driving that shift. However, as students get older, both boys and girls are more likely to draw a male scientist. While 70 percent of 6-year-old girls draw a woman scientist, only 25% of 16-year-old girls do.

[Further information and resources on Draw a Scientist can be found at [NSTA: Draw a Scientist](#) and [California Academy of Sciences: Draw a Scientist Lesson Plan](#)]

OBJECTIVES

- Students demonstrate their understanding of what a conservationist is by making drawings and playing a matching game.
- Students are introduced to conservationists from Conservation Nation through videos in which the conservationist share "three things you wouldn't know just by looking at me."
- Students learn about the mission of Conservation Nation.

MATERIALS AVAILABLE AT www.conservationnation.org/lessons

- A set of conservationist matching cards for each pair or small group of students. You will need to copy and cut them out beforehand, and we recommend laminating them for future use.
- Playlist of conservationist videos
- Vocabulary list



OTHER MATERIALS NEEDED

- For each student: paper and drawing supplies

INSTRUCTIONS***Part One: Draw a Conservationist***

- Give students drawing supplies and provide one of the following prompts or something similar that you feel your students would best respond to:
 - Draw a conservationist doing conservation.
 - Draw a person doing work to help nature/wildlife.
 - Draw someone who works to protect nature and the environment.
- Give students at least 15 minutes to draw their answer and label their drawings.
- Consider placing drawings on the tables and giving students time to walk quietly around the room to observe each other's drawings and notice similarities and differences. What do the pictures have in common? How are they different? What are some traits of conservationists?

Part Two: Match the Conservationist

- Divide students into groups and give each group a set of Conservationist Matching Cards.
- Explain that a conservationist is someone who works to protect wildlife and people's relationships with natural spaces.
- Instruct students to match the conservationist with the animal that they work to protect. This is the animal that the real person in the picture has a deep passion for protecting.
- Show students the Conservationist Videos on the playlist to reveal the answers and see special video messages from the conservationists!

REFLECTION

Watch the **VIDEO OF CONSERVATION NATION'S STORY** and use the following questions for discussion or Think-Pair-Share:

- Can you tell what a person is passionate about just by looking at them?
- What kind of assumptions do people make about each other just by looking at them?
- Do you think it is helpful to see someone who looks like you to be inspired to do a particular job? Why or why not?
- What is something that you feel passionate about?
- Which conservationists are you most interested in learning more about? What would you like to ask them?

We hope you enjoyed this lesson!
Learn more about Conservation Nation at
www.conservationnation.org

