

# Mini Projects Online

#ForTheWin

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# Context

## The challenge (aka the opportunity)

- Young learners **9-11 years old**
- **Timetable change**: twice weekly, hour-long lessons to daily 30-minute lessons
- Actively **asking** for “homework”
- **Freed** from the confines of classroom time, space and resource
- No classroom walls to decorate, but an **online space** visible to my students



# Method

1. Planning a unit with both **a specific theme and product aim** over a week or fortnight with input and production, in and out of class.
2. Lessons with specific focus:
  - Vocabulary (elicit) and present
  - Information input (CLIL style)
  - Writing/drafting
3. Set the project as a weekend “homework” at the end of the week/fortnight to be uploaded to the platform for everyone to see.



# Example Unit

## Animals, Habitats and the Environment - Week One

- Elicit and present vocabulary for different habitats (their characteristics, the animals that live there, the environmental problems they face)
- British Council lesson materials about different habitats and problems in the habitats.
- Following a model paragraph about the rainforest, write about the Arctic.



# Example Unit

## Animals, Habitats and the Environment - Week Two

- Elicit and present types of animals (birds, reptiles, etc) and parts of each - reinforce with a guessing game
- Using a model to write about two animals.
- CLIL Materials for problems in the environment and solutions
- Game to reinforce language (and reward hard work)

# Outcomes 1

## Qualitative

1. I was impressed with their **enthusiasm** and inspired by their **prior knowledge** especially for the environment project.
2. The learners were keen to get **creative** and share their ideas and knowledge.
3. The projects gave more **autonomy** to the students than I would normally give in the classroom — a lesson to take back with me to the physical classroom — and allowed them to explore areas of interest to them in the target language.
  - I learned about some animals that I didn't know much about, the Iberian Lynx for example.



# Outcomes 2

## Projects

### OCEAN

Weather is depend of the ocean.

There live squids sarks and fish and there are seaweeds roks and corals.

One of the problems is that the persons throw rubhis to the ocean the solution is stop throwing rubhis

**ANIMALS**

Squid is a mollusk have shell and Tentacles

Shark is a fish have gills and fins

Eat fish

### DESERT

Weather is very hot and dry.

There live scorpions and some snakes

there are sand and cactus.

the desert don't have any problem

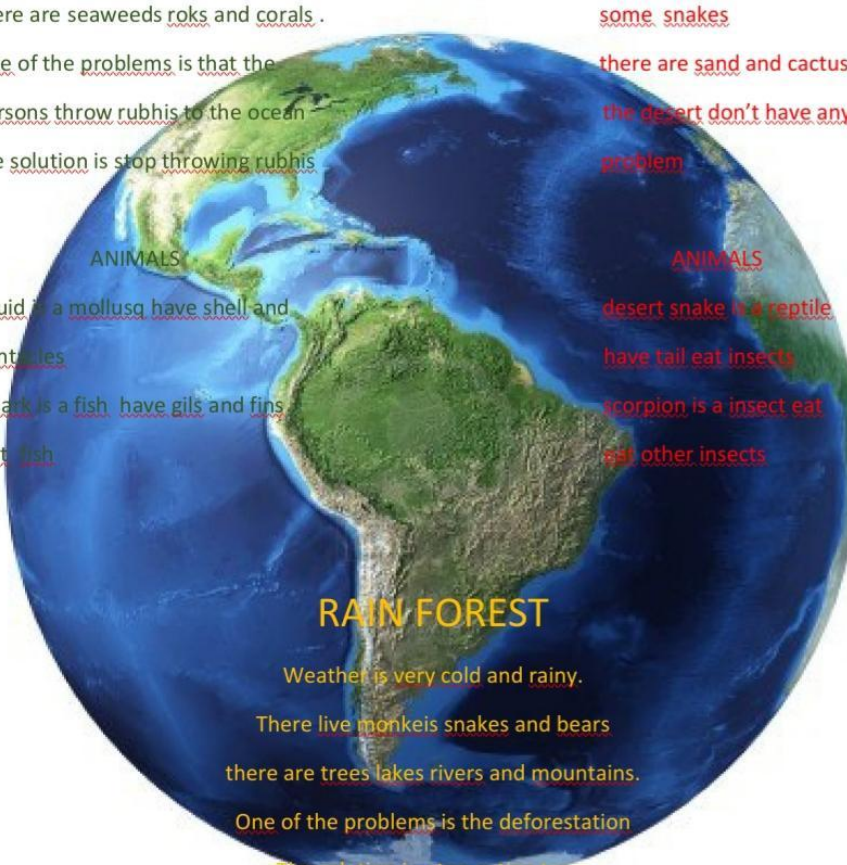
**ANIMALS**

desert snake is a reptile

have tail eat insects

scorpion is a insect eat

eat other insects



### RAIN FOREST

Weather is very cold and rainy.

There live monkeys snakes and bears

there are trees lakes rivers and mountains.

One of the problems is the deforestation

The solution is stop cutting trees

**ANIMALS**

Snake is a reptile have thooth and tail eats rodents

Bear is a mammal have fur, thooth and limbs eat honey and animals

### The Iberian Lynx (is in danger of extinction)


**Habitat:** The Iberian Lynx is found in Mediterranean forest and scrub. It is found in very few well-wooded areas isolated from human activity. In Portugal it seems to have become extinct. In what is extant, the Iberian Lynx is the only carnivore considered to be a specialist in hunting rabbits. The species mainly feed on 90% of its food is rabbits, ducks, mountain partridges and small mammals and other birds.

**Customs:** In almost all cases, the Iberian Lynx live in a solitary and extremely wary but they are more sociable in the mating season...

**Survival:** Lynx are basically twilight and daytime with increased at night-time activities after their first year of life.

**Characteristics:** The Iberian Lynx is a species of carnivorous mammal of the family Felidae endemic to the Iberian Peninsula. Its scientific name is Lynx baileyi. State of conservation: critically endangered. (Body length: 75-110 cm (adults) and body height: 10-15 cm (adult). Shoulder height: 20 cm (adult). Tail length: 13-15 cm (adult). Weight: 9-14 kg (adult). Female: 9-14 kg (adult). Their coat is a tawny-brown with black spots or blotches of another shade of the colour of their light coat.

The Iberian Lynx is in danger of extinction because of the lack of food, so there is a sharp decline in rabbit population, the destruction of the natural habitat, the Mediterranean mountains, forests and roads killings, since lynx never populated areas. The reduction of populations deteriorates their genetic quality and makes their reproduction in the wild impossible.




### Mediterranean mountain (habitat of the Iberian Lynx)

**Location:** Mediterranean forests located in the area surrounding the Mediterranean Sea, which covers southern Europe, North Africa and North America.

**Flora:** The flora of the Mediterranean mountains is very rich and varied and includes all kinds of animals from forest mountain plants and shrubs. It is a very rich and varied flora, with many species of plants and shrubs. It is a very rich and varied flora, with many species of plants and shrubs.

**Flora:** The typical vegetation is sclerophyll and evergreen. The dominant species are the oak, olive, cork oak, holm oak, myrtle, laurel, bay, rosemary, sage, thyme, lavender, etc. and many others. The climate is characterized by mild and rainy winters and hot and dry summers, with moderate winds and strong light in the summer and autumn.

**The Mediterranean mountains are suffering being depopulated** due to the cutting down of their climate change also makes these species have to migrate and some animals plants, poisoning causes them to run out of animals.



### The Tiger (is in danger of extinction)


**Summary:**

- Where live: Tigers are found in Asia from Siberia in the north to the island of Java in the south.
- Habitat: Tigers are found in some diverse habitats: jungle, savanna, swamps and even mangroves.
- Diet: Tigers are carnivorous animals which feed on wild boar, deer, antelope and practically all large mammals.
- Customs: tiger is a solitary animal that is territorial of action. It usually hunts alone.
- Characteristics: tiger is a mammal with orange fur with dark stripes (black or brown) they are in the same family as leopards and lions and it is the last of the big cats. They live in the forest, they are very silent at night, they are very fast and they are very strong. The scientific name is Panthera tigris.

The tiger is an animal in danger of extinction.

Why? Unfortunately, illegal hunting has caused tigers to be in danger of extinction on some cases we have almost disappeared from the face of the earth...

Reasons: The destruction of their natural habitats and the increase of their prey by humans. These are the factors why tigers are in danger of extinction.



### Tropical Jungle (Tiger habitat)

**Location:** The location of the tropical jungle is around the equator, mainly in the tropics of Asia, Africa and the tropics of Latin America. You will find tropical jungle habitats in Australia, Southeast Asia, southern India and South America.

**Flora:** They are characterized by having a wide diversity of insects such as ants, flies, butterflies and stick insects among others. As a result of fauna in the tropical jungle we will find alligators, monkeys, turtles, all kinds of snakes, jaguars, bats, tigers, crocodiles, a great number of frogs and birds, etc.

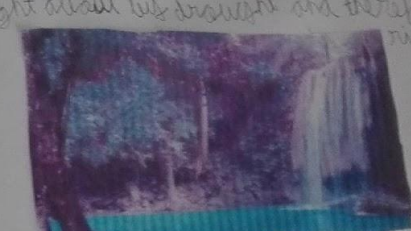
**Flora:** The tropical jungle is divided into several strata: canopy, climbing plants, and vines, lianas, orchids, bromeliads, etc. mushrooms, climbing plants, ferns, land and water plants, etc.

**Climate:** In the tropical jungle it rains a lot and has an equatorial or monsoon climate all year round.

The tropical jungle is in **deforestation**.

Every year an area of the tropical jungle the size of the state of New Jersey is cut down and destroyed. The plants and animals that live in these forests die if they manage to escape they have to find another place to live.



Why? Humans are the biggest cause of the destruction of the tropical jungle. Tropical jungle are also threatened by the change brought about by drought and therefore there is a risk of fire.



### Habitats

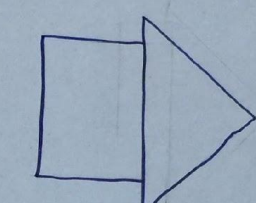
#### Arctic

This is the Arctic. Polar bears, narwhals, killer whales, are some of the animals that live in this habitat. There are lots of ice as well. The weather is cold, snowy and windy. One problem is that the poles are getting warmer and the animals are left with nowhere to live. Another problem is that humans throw many plastics into the sea, and animals think that it is food and the debris can solve very easily.



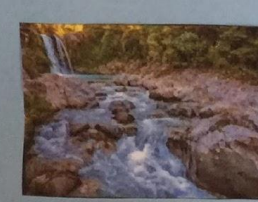
#### Bear bears

This animal is very big and dangerous. The polar bear eat of white fish, fox eggs, frog whiskers and a red tongue. The polar bear eat some seals. They live in the Arctic. The important fact is: the polar bear is a mammal.




#### Rivers

This is the river. Trout, salmon, frogs, snakes, are some of the animals that live in this habitat. The water temperature is cold. One of the problems that humans have caused is that they throw all the chemical products from the factories into the rivers that then go to the sea and the animals that live in the habitats die. We can solve move the debris to deposit.



#### Frog

This animal is small and aquatic. The frog has got four legs, scales and a little tail. The frogs eat insects and are oviparous. The frogs live in the rivers. The important fact is: the frog is a amphibian.



This is the jungle. In this habitat the weather is warm and live monkeys, snakes, spiders... One problem of the jungle is the deforestation. The solution is recycling paper.



The snake is an animal of the jungle. Is very long, usually measures five meters but can reach more than seven. They are carnivorous and they belong to the reptile family. They have no legs and arms and they have a very big mouth.





# Questions ?



Thanks for listening

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Phrasally Verbocious Podcast