

Endangered Species

Lessons for Young Students

Dear Parents, Teachers, and PEAKers,

Two weeks ago at PEAK students learned about a teaching tool called Bloom's Taxonomy. It was created by Psychologist Benjamin Bloom in the 1940's in an attempt to understand how our brains think and process information. Teachers use Bloom's Taxonomy in their lesson planning to ensure students are using those higher order thinking skills. PEAK students will be using Bloom's as well when they teach K and 1st grade students about their endangered species.

Student teams continued building their knowledge base on their chosen species. Most teams are or are very close to finished with research. This information will be the basis of their endangered species lesson. Late in the day, teams began brainstorming the creation of the lesson itself. They decided who would be responsible for what information and in what order they would speak. Student teams also discussed how they would present their research keeping in mind they must include all the learning styles we've explored. Lastly, teams shared possible activities they could have their students participate in. These activities will use Bloom's Taxonomy – the goal is to get the students using those higher order thinking skills like creating, applying, analyzing – not just remembering! It was a busy week!

Next week is another altered schedule week due to the variety of winter programs around the district. **This coming week will have Tuesday PEAK students attending, only Hawthorne students on Wednesday, and Thursday PEAK students attending on their day.** All other schools had PEAK last week and are done until after the winter break. This week will be a work week for student teams. They will have to complete any incomplete research. They will also have to make final decisions on how they will be presenting their endangered species story. Teams will continue and decide on the activities they want to use with their students. This week will also see teams building the materials and supplies they need for their teaching lesson. Yep, busy again!

This Week's Activities: (Dec. 18 – Dec. 21)

Interpersonal: Teamwork – I can assume an assigned role within a group and effectively contribute to a team.	Becoming the Teacher! – Student teams will decide how they want to present their information and work together to plan the activities they'll use during their lesson.
Research: 5 Areas of Investigating Living Things – I can use the 5 Areas system with little guidance from teacher.	Building our Species Knowledge – Student teams will continue collecting information using the 5 Areas to build their knowledge. Teams will keep in mind their audience while developing their species information.
Communication: Writing to an Authentic Audience – I can create written works to clearly and effectively share information I have gathered from outside sources.	Our Endangered Species Lesson – Student teams will begin building their lesson for their K and 1 st grade students incorporating learning styles and using Bloom's Taxonomy too.

Getting prepped and ready,

Mr. Currier

PEAK Calendar – Fall 2023

18 P/T Conf.	19 Jim Darcy Kessler Central	20 Hawthorne	21 Broadwater Bryant Smith	22 Winter Break Begins
25	26	27	28	29
Winter Break – Happy Holidays				
JAN 1 2024	2	3	4	5
Winter Break Ends	Jim Darcy Kessler Central Jefferson Rossiter Warren	Four Georgians Hawthorne	Broadwater Bryant Smith	
8	9	10	11	12
Jefferson Rossiter Warren	Jim Darcy Kessler Central	Four Georgians Hawthorne	Broadwater Bryant Smith	
Endangered Species: Lessons for Young Learners – Final Presentations				
15	16	17	18	19
MLK Day – No School	½ day Morning Jim Darcy Kessler Central Pickup 11:15am No Lunch ½ Day Afternoon Jefferson Rossiter Warren Drop off 11:30am Lunch at PEAK	½ day Morning Four Georgians Hawthorne Return 11:15am No Lunch ½ Day Afternoon Broadwater Bryant Smith Drop off 11:30am Lunch at PEAK	Mr. Currier's room is being painted! No PEAK	
22	23	24	25	26
Records Day – No School	Jim Darcy Kessler Central Jefferson Rossiter Warren	Four Georgians Hawthorne	Broadwater Bryant Smith	