

Extension Activities- Post Distance Learning Program

California condor and their community connections: A shared place

Activity objectives:

Students will be able to

- 1) Learn how the California condor is viewed in different ways by different people.
- 2) Identify their own feelings toward the California condor.

Materials: Role cards (See below)

Background for teacher:

This role-playing activity is designed to lead the interaction and discussion between the students, based both on their character role and their individual feelings. They will examine various roles in the community and how they share the landscape with each other and the California condor.

Scenario:

California condors are being relocated into your community. Is this a good idea or a problem? Not all people have the same connection to their environment and this endangered species. A community meeting has been scheduled where everyone from the community will be asked to share their feelings and concerns about the return of the condor to their land.

Instructions:

1. Divide the students into six groups.
2. Explain that each group will receive a role card that explains who they are in the community and outlines their relationship to and feelings about the California condor.
3. Hand out the role cards to each group.
4. Instruct the students to read their view of the condor, discuss it, and plan a two minute presentation to support their view.
5. Ask each group to identify one of their members to serve as the group's spokesperson.
6. Call the Community Meeting and give each group time to present their position on the release of the California condors in their community.
7. Lead a class discussion on how each member of the community had different feelings about the condors.
 - ✓ Is bringing wildlife back into its natural habitat an easy thing to accomplish?
 - ✓ What are the students own personal feelings towards the birds?
 - ✓ Which community character do they relate the most closely?
 - ✓ How might the students help to share the condor's story with the many diverse people in their own community?



Role 1: Biologist

Main Goal: To reintroduce condors back to the Grand Canyon area.

Activities:

- Prepare condors for release to the wild.
- Care for condors in pens and feed each day.
- Attach tags to the birds to allow radio tracking of their movements.
- Conduct medical checks on the birds.
- Release condors when they are acclimated to their new environment.
- Talk to people about the importance of condors in the environment.

Major Emotion: Feels condors should be reintroduced and protected.

Role 2: Farmer

Main Goal: To plant, harvest and sell crops to provide for his own family.

Activities:

Plant, harvest and sell different crops

Major Emotion: Afraid that the reintroduction of the condor will affect his or her ability to feed their family. There might be more regulations on how to use the land. The birds might cause damage to his crops.

Role 3: Tourist

Main Goal: To see a wild condor.

Activities:

- Drives to Grand Canyon.
- Talks to everyone they can and ask whether they have seen a condor and where.
- Asks directions for finding their way.
- Buys food at the local store and has a room in a local hotel.
- Takes lots of pictures.
- Talks about the beauty of the condor.

Major Emotion: Wants to see condor. Is not very interested in people.

Role 4: Hunter

Main Goal: To shoot a deer or elk near Grand Canyon.

Activities:

- Drives and hikes roads around the National Park looking for deer and elk.
- Uses binoculars to try and spot the animals.
- Shoots an elk.
- Takes the meat home to feed his family and enjoys the hunting experience.

Major Emotion: Concerned that bringing condor back into the national Park will limit his ability to hunt in the area.

Role 5: Native People

Main Goal: To tell the story of their past relationship to the condor.

Activities:

- Tell the story of his people and their relationship to the land.
- Talk about the importance of the condor to his tribe.

Major Emotion: Deep respect for the condor.

Role 6: California Condor

Main Goal: To fly, find food and mate.

Activities:

- Fly from the mountains to the sea.
- Look for and eating animal carcasses.
- Watch out for golden eagles.
- Avoid humans.

Major Emotion: Wants to be free flying in the wild!