

Activity: “Alien Visit”

Curriculum-related subjects: Language, social studies

Time: 20 to 30 minutes

Materials needed: Chair, questions page (see next page)

Objective: To learn how our choices have an impact on wildlife and biodiversity, and that wild species are part of a large interdependent system.

1. Choose a person from the group to be the “alien” and ask them to sit at the front of the room. The volunteer alien can pick a name for herself, to use for the activity.
2. Say: “Let’s imagine that we have heard about this alien who is traveling through the universe on a fact-finding mission to learn how different beings behave on different planets. She is visiting Earth, and you’ve brought her with you to talk to you today because she loves asking humans their views. On her planet all beings are treated equally, with respect and compassion, and that she wants to know the rules on planet Earth so she won’t offend anyone. Because her planet is so far away, she travels in the form of energy and will occupy this body to ask you humans some questions. Now as the alien asks you the questions, just shout answers out, no need to raise your hands! We’ll be going quickly as the alien doesn’t have much time on Earth.”
3. Ask the volunteer to close their eyes to pretend let the alien “enter her mind”. It will then be the alien who addresses the group. Give the “alien” the questions page to ask the group. They should take less than a minute to answer each question.
4. After all questions on the next page have been answered, ask the group:
 - Why do we treat some wildlife one way and other another way?
 - Why do we have certain values but do not always act accordingly?
 - How would you want to answer these questions differently?

Most of the time, participants will express the view that we should treat others with respect. But as the alien delves deeper, animal welfare issues naturally come to light. The discussion will bring out inconsistencies in our treatment of different wild species.

“Alien Visit” questions page

The volunteer “alien” asks these questions aloud one at a time.

- How are you supposed to treat humans?
- Is it ever okay to harm other humans? Why or why not?
- Do people generally treat other humans respectfully?

- Is it ever okay to harm turtles, frogs, or snakes? Why or why not?
- Do humans generally treat turtles, frogs, or snakes respectfully?
- How do humans use turtles, frogs, or snakes?

- Is it ever okay to harm rats and mice? Why or why not?
- Do humans generally treat rats and mice respectfully?
- How do humans use rats and mice?

- Is it ever okay to harm cows, chickens, and pigs? Why or why not?
- Do humans generally treat cows, chickens, and pigs respectfully?
- How do humans use cows, chickens, and pigs?

- What are some wild animals you don’t like?
- Is it ever okay to harm these animal species? Why or why not?
- Do humans generally treat these types of animals respectfully?