

## LESSON PLAN: ENDANGERED NATIVE FOREST BIRDS OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS

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Adapted by Mary Garvilles from

<http://www.beaconlearningcenter.com/Lessons/1867.htm>

### Lesson overview:

Students will conduct research about an extinct or endangered bird species from the Mariana Islands and create a diorama to illustrate what they have learned.

### Objective:

To learn about the endangered or extinct bird species of the Mariana Islands' and their habitat, to prepare a visual presentation

**Duration:** 2-3 days

### Materials

- Shoebox or plastic bin for the diorama
- Scissors, glue, paints/markers, construction paper
- Pictures or plastic models of plants and animals
- Computer with Internet access

**Background:** See resources list at end of this booklet. The Guam DAWR and CNMI DFW websites have a lot of great information. In addition, most federally endangered species should have a US Fish and Wildlife Management plan that is a great source of information. Look for locally listed species in addition to federally listed species.

### Lesson Procedure

- 1) Anticipatory set/introduction to topic: Have students watch a YouTube clip about the Micronesian Kingfisher. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wou8gs5-Les&feature=related>
  - a) Working alone or in small groups, students should find the answers to the following questions and record them in their notebooks.
    - i) What is the name of this endangered bird species?
    - ii) How many of these birds are left in Guam?
    - iii) Why are these birds endangered?
    - iv) What conservation efforts are being done to help save them from going into extinction?
    - v) Where will they release the bird?
    - vi) Introduce the lesson by selecting an endangered native forest bird. Have them include a biography.
    - vii) Identify its physical and behavioral characteristics.
  - b) Discuss with the class, why the species is endangered.
  - c) Discuss with the class, what adaptations would be necessary in order for the species to survive.

- d) Discuss the difference between locally listed endangered species (listed by Guam or CNMI government) and federally listed endangered species (listed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service)
- 2) Break up the class into groups of 2 or 3. Each group must choose an endangered animal species from the Mariana Islands. Use the list of endangered species at the end of this booklet for reference.
  - a) Using books from the classroom or library and the internet, the groups should identify:
    - i) Common name (English, Chamorro, Tagalog and any other common names you can find)
    - ii) Scientific Name
    - iii) Habitat of the species
    - iv) How frequently it reproduces. At what age it first reproduces.
    - v) Diet
    - vi) How it is adapted to its environment
    - vii) Why it is endangered
  - b) Students can download or scan pictures for their report. A great site for pictures: <http://guampedia.com/a-native-forest-birds-of-guam/>
  - c) The teacher should circulate and assist the groups, giving feedback where necessary. Offer suggestions to the students on where to look for information on their species.
  - d) Homework option 1: students must write a typewritten report with all of this information.
  - e) Homework option 2: Have the groups present their findings in a diorama. Remind them to divide the work evenly among the group members as they gather supplies and construct their projects.
- 3) Students will present their reports or dioramas to the class. Ask them what they think is the best option for helping the species recover.
- 4) Students will display their dioramas during the school science fair and during the Earth Day festival

**Evaluation:** Grade students based on their reports or dioramas and presentation.