Activity 5: Nonfiction Stories

Overview: Students will examine the interactions human beings have with wild animals and the consequences of such interactions. Through a nonfiction passage, students will learn about sanctuaries and the life of a tiger who was saved from a roadside zoo.

Procedure:

Introduction
Ask the students what the difference is between companion animals [pets] and wild animals. Then ask the students to list as many wild animals as they can.

- Highlight to the students that they will be learning about tigers.
- Emphasize that wild animals have many needs that are taken care of by their habitat, or home. This is different from companion animals who rely on people for their needs.

Nikita’s New Home
1. Read “Nikita’s New Home” story. Determine if reading the story individually, in pairs, in small groups, or together as an entire class will work best with your group of students.

   Note: Nikita’s New Home is a true story.

2. As a group, answer the five “True/False” questions about the reading.

Sanctuaries
1. After answering all the questions, refocus the students’ attention to the word sanctuary. Ask the students if they think a sanctuary would be a nice place to live if they were animals.

2. Recall Nikita’s story and how she found a home at a sanctuary. Ask the students if they can think of other types of sanctuaries for animals. (Possible answers: chimpanzee sanctuaries; wolf sanctuaries; elephant sanctuaries; farm animal sanctuaries.)

Wrap Up:
1. Ask students what they think is the best place for a wild animal to live. (The wild)

2. Then ask the students if an animal is not living in the wild, what is the next best thing. (Sanctuary)
Nikita's New Home

Read.

Nikita did not grow up like a lot of tigers. She has never lived in a forest. She has never roamed free. For seven years she was owned by a man. This man used Nikita to make money. He let people take pictures with her. To keep Nikita still, he put chains on her. Nikita was very mistreated. Happily, Nikita was rescued by a group of people who care about animals.

Today Nikita has a new home. She lives in a place just for big cats. It is called a wildcat sanctuary. Nikita is safe there. She has room to roam. She is well cared for. Nikita will live there for the rest of her life.

Circle true or false.

1. Nikita grew up in the wild.       true   false
2. The wild is the best home for a tiger. true   false
3. People who care about animals helped Nikita. true   false
4. It is better to put chains on an animal than to let him or her roam free. true   false
5. A wildcat sanctuary is a place for big cats to live. true   false