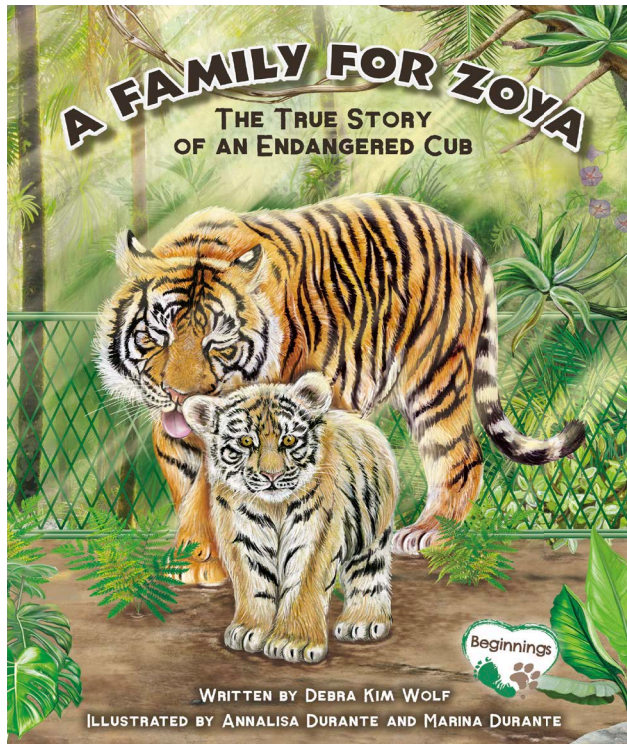


A FAMILY FOR ZOYA TEACHER'S GUIDE

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To be used with:

A Family for Zoya

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ZOO RESEARCH

GRADES: 2nd-5th

MATERIALS: Projector to display zoo live cams, live stream links (from zoos such as the Bronx Zoo, San Diego Zoo, and Smithsonian National Zoo), “Ways the Zoo is Helping” observation chart, pencils, clipboards

SUBJECT: Zoo Conservation and Animal Observation

NGSS: 2-LS4-1, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4, 5-ESS3-1

SKILLS: Observation and data collection, environmental literacy, critical thinking and cause-effect reasoning, collaboration and presentation skills

Background: Zoos like the ones Zoya lived in play a vital role in helping endangered animals survive and thrive. Beyond providing a safe home, zoos work hard to protect wild habitats, educate people about animals, and support efforts to save species from extinction. By caring for animals like Zoya, zoos give hope for the future of tigers and other wildlife around the world.



Activity:

1. Read *A Family for Zoya* aloud to your class and talk about how each zoo Zoya lived in (Philadelphia Zoo, Oklahoma City Zoo, Roosevelt Park Zoo) helped her grow and thrive. Highlight programs like habitat protection, fundraising, and enrichment activities that support endangered animals like Zoya.
2. Explain that while there’s no live footage of Zoya anymore, the class will watch live animal cams from other major conservation-focused zoos, such as the San Diego Zoo, Bronx Zoo, and Smithsonian National Zoo.
3. Watch 1 or 2 live streams as a class, focusing on animals like big cats, elephants, or gorillas—any species, not just tigers—to explore a variety of animals and conservation efforts.
4. Divide students into groups and guide them to fill out an observation chart titled “Ways the Zoo is Helping.” They will note clues on how the zoo supports animals, like space, shelter, enrichment, and animal behavior.
5. Have groups share their findings and compare how different zoos help animals and ways everyone can support conservation.

Discussion:

1. How do zoos and wild environments help or challenge the animals in them? How can people help in both?
2. What are some ways different zoos support tigers like Zoya, including efforts we might not always see?
3. What are some ways we can support animal conservation at home, at school, or in our community?



WAYS THE ZOO IS HELPING

Name: _____

Date: _____

Animal	Habitat Space/Shelter/Shade	Enrichment Toys, Logs, etc.	Animal Behavior	How does this show the zoo is helping?



PALM OIL IMPACT EXPERIMENT

Background: Introduce your students to the widespread use of palm oil in everyday products and explain why its production has become a major environmental concern. While palm oil farming often leads to deforestation, habitat loss, and threats to wildlife like Zoya, it's important to understand that not all palm oil is harmful. The **WWF Palm Oil Scorecard** helps identify brands that are making responsible choices to protect forests and animals. This activity encourages students to think critically about sustainability and how small choices can help protect habitats.

Activity:

1. Start by showing students common products that contain palm oil. Then, play a short, kid-friendly YouTube video that explains why palm oil is so widely used, how it's produced, where it's grown, and why it can be a problem for the environment.
2. Review the WWF Palm Oil Scorecard as a class. Beforehand, select a few brands to highlight, and explain how the scorecard grades companies based on their sustainability, forest protection, and ethical practices. Use these examples to guide a discussion about which brands are making eco-friendly choices and why supporting these companies matters.
3. Have students record their observations, noting which products and brands are environmentally responsible and which are not.
4. Lead a group discussion on how unsustainable palm oil farming causes habitat loss and affects wildlife and ecosystems.
5. Brainstorm as a class possible solutions and alternatives, writing ideas on chart paper or a whiteboard (e.g., choosing sustainable brands, reducing palm oil consumption, spreading awareness).
6. Challenge students to find a product at home that contains palm oil. Invite them to share their findings with the class, discuss whether the brand is sustainable, and reflect on how their everyday choices can support conservation efforts.

GRADE: 4th-5th

MATERIALS: Samples of everyday products containing palm oil; printed or digital access to the WWF Palm Oil Scorecard (for teacher use); chart paper or whiteboard for brainstorming solutions; markers or sticky notes for group discussion

SUBJECT: Investigating the Environmental Impact Palm Oil

NGSS: 4-ESS3-1, 5-ESS3-1

SKILLS: Environmental literacy, critical thinking and problem-solving, research and analysis, group discussion and collaboration



Discussion:

1. Why is using unsustainable palm oil harmful to animals and the environment?
2. How can we tell if a company is making eco-friendly choices?
3. What are some things we can do as consumers to support sustainability?
4. How do our everyday choices connect to animal conservation?



DESIGN A TIGER-FRIENDLY HABITAT

GRADES: 3rd

MATERIALS: Building blocks, cardboard, or recycled materials for model building; glue, tape, and scissors for assembling models; research materials on tiger habitats and conservation efforts; poster boards and markers

SUBJECT: Designing a Tiger Conservation Sanctuary

NGSS: 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4

SKILLS: Creativity and design thinking, problem-solving and critical thinking, environmental awareness and conservation planning, presentation skills

Background: Teach your students about the challenges tigers face in the wild, such as habitat loss, poaching, and conflicts with nearby villages. Explain that conservationists around the world are working through programs like the Tiger Conservation Campaign to protect forests, reduce illegal hunting, and help people and wildlife live peacefully together.



Activity:

1. Introduce the idea of conservation sanctuaries and provide background on tiger habitats and the threats tigers face. Use research materials or show a short, age-appropriate video to help students understand
2. Challenge students to design their own tiger sanctuary. They can create drawings or build models using materials like building blocks, shoeboxes, cardboard, and recycled items
3. Encourage students to think about how their sanctuary will protect tigers and the surrounding ecosystem, including plants and other animals. They should consider shelter, food, space, safety, and how humans might be involved in caring for the sanctuary.
4. Provide materials and time for students to build or draw their sanctuary designs.
5. Have each student or group make a simple poster that explains how their sanctuary connects to real conservation efforts, like those of the Tiger Conservation Campaign.
6. Have each student or group present their sanctuary and poster to the class, sharing how their design helps keep tigers safe and supports conservation goals.

Discussion:

1. What features did you include to keep tigers safe and happy in your sanctuary?
2. Why do tigers need special places like sanctuaries?
3. What challenges do people face when creating real tiger sanctuaries?
4. How does your poster show the work of the Tiger Conservation Campaign?



ADOPT AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

GRADE: 3rd-5th

MATERIALS: Internet or books for research; poster board, markers, and art supplies for visual presentations; digital presentation tools (optional); information on real animal adoption programs (for optional fundraising component)

SUBJECT: Advocating for Endangered Species Through Research and Adoption

NGSS: 3-LS4-4, 5-ESS3-1

SKILLS: Research and information synthesis, environmental literacy and advocacy, persuasive communication

Background: Many animal species, like Zoya's, face extinction because of habitat destruction and harmful human activities. Teach your students that they can be part of the solution! This activity encourages them to turn research into action by choosing an endangered species to "adopt." They will learn how that species is being protected today and create a presentation or advocacy poster to educate others about the risks of extinction and ways to help.

Activity:

1. Assign each student or group an endangered species to research. Have them focus on the species' habitat, threats, and conservation efforts.
2. Guide students to explore how zoos, conservation organizations, and individuals work to protect their chosen species.
3. Have students create an advocacy poster or visual presentation to teach their classmates about their species' needs and how people can help.
4. Emphasize that clear and persuasive communication is an important part of conservation. Show examples through videos or websites like the WWF, and encourage students to use similar language in their work.
5. Optionally, encourage students or the class to fundraise for a real animal adoption through organizations.



Discussion:

1. What did you learn about your species' biggest challenges in the wild?
2. How do zoos and conservation groups help protect endangered animals?
3. How did you make your poster or presentation persuasive? What did you include to convince others to care about the issue?
4. Why is it important for people to help protect animals and the environment?



S.E.L. STORYTIME

GRADE: 1st-2nd

MATERIALS: Drawing paper and colored pencils, markers, or crayons; writing notebooks or printed copies of students' stories; display space for artwork (classroom wall, bulletin board, or digital presentation)

SUBJECT: Exploring Empathy Through Storytelling

NGSS: 1-LS1-2, 2-LS4-1

SKILLS: Creative writing and storytelling, visual storytelling and artistic expression, public speaking and discussion skills, emotional literacy, character analysis

Background: As Zoya moved between zoos and tiger families, she faced uncertainty, change, and the need to trust again. Teach your students that, just like people, animals experience fear, comfort, curiosity, and connection. Understanding animal emotions can help us become more compassionate caregivers and advocates!



Activity:

1. Have students write a short story inspired by Zoya's experiences. Encourage them to think about how Zoya might have felt at different points—when she was alone, when she met Lola and the other cubs, and as she found her place in a new family.
2. Prompt students to imagine themselves in Zoya's "paws":
 - a. How might they feel in her situation?
 - b. How did her story make them feel?
3. Ask students to illustrate a favorite scene from their story using drawing materials. Give students time to practice reading their stories aloud and describing their illustrations.
4. Hold a story-sharing session where each student presents their story and drawing, explaining Zoya's emotions and how her journey changed.
5. Facilitate a group reflection on the stories and discuss what students learned about animals and empathy.



Discussion:

1. What was your favorite part of your story or drawing?
2. Why is it important to understand how animals feel?
3. How did creating your story and picture help you think about Zoya's experience?
4. What can we do to help animals like Zoya in real life?



CREATIVE CONSERVATION

GRADES: 3rd-5th

MATERIALS: Blank printed maps of Asia, colored pencils or markers, a chart listing the 6 living tiger subspecies and the countries they inhabit (found in *Clemson: Team Up for Tigers Module 1*), sticky notes or icons for labeling threats and solutions.

SUBJECT: Mapping Tiger Subspecies and Regional Conservation Challenges

NGSS: 3-ESS3-1, 3-LS4-4, 5-ESS3-1

SKILLS: Geography and map reading, classification and comparison, environmental literacy, cause-effect reasoning, collaborative problem-solving

Activity:

1. Provide students with a blank map of the world or Asia, along with a chart listing all six living tiger subspecies and the countries they inhabit.
2. Assign a different color to each subspecies and have students shade the countries where each one lives.
3. Ask students to mark Zoya's homeland, Russia, with a paw print or special label.
4. Once maps are complete, lead a class discussion about the challenges each region faces—such as poaching in India and Southeast Asia or deforestation from palm oil production in Indonesia.
5. Use sticky notes or small labels to mark these threats directly on the maps.
6. As a class, brainstorm solutions that could help tigers in each region, such as anti-poaching laws, sustainable shopping, and protecting forest habitats.

Background: Zoya's story introduces us to two subspecies of tigers—Amur and Sumatran—but there are six total subspecies found across Asia: Amur, Sumatran, Bengal, Indochinese, Malayan, and South China tigers. In this activity, students will explore where these tigers live and how geography, habitat, and human actions affect their survival.



Discussion:

1. Which parts of the world still have wild tigers?
2. What makes each tiger's habitat unique?
3. Which regions seem to face the biggest threats to tiger survival, and why?
4. What can people do to protect tigers in these regions?

