

# Save our Endangered Animals

## Megan Power, Teacher on Special Assignment, Kindergarten Teacher

Megan Power is a teacher at Design39Campus in Poway Unified School District in San Diego, CA. She specializes in teaching primary grades, technology integration, and project based learning. Megan has been a teacher for 12 years with the majority of her years in kindergarten. This school year, Megan is a "teacher on special assignment" out of the classroom researching and redesigning education by planning the opening of Poway's innovative new school, Design39Campus.

Megan was one of the first teachers in her district to pilot a 1:1 laptop program in kindergarten. This program was extremely successful and she continued it for four years. She has also created regional and statewide award-winning movies entirely written, filmed, and edited by kindergarteners.

Megan has won many awards and recognitions including Time Warner Cable's National Teacher of the Year and Poway Unified Teacher of the Year. For three years she was a Scholastic Top Teacher Blogger, blogging weekly about technology integration with primary students. Megan presents frequently at international, national, state, and regional conferences on technology integration, video production, personalized learning, and project-based learning with our youngest students. She is passionate about redesigning education to make learning fascinating for all students.



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## Design39Campus: San Diego, California

Design39Campus is a new preschool-8th grade public school in the Poway Unified School District in San Diego, California. The school and the building are currently under construction and will be opening in August 2014. The teachers and staff at Design39Campus are committed to reimagining the current education system with plans to be a catalyst for change in education worldwide. At Design39Campus learning experiences are designed with the individual learner in mind.

As a collaborative community we:

- Nurture creative confidence
- Practice design thinking and inquiry
- Connect globally
- Use technology and the tools of the information age
- Promote the courage and growth mindset necessary to change the world

Keep updated with our school's progress at [www.Design39Campus.com](http://www.Design39Campus.com) or follow us on Twitter [@Design39Campus](https://twitter.com/Design39Campus)



## Learning Objectives

This integrated project-based learning unit on endangered animals is packed with both academic objectives and 21st century skills. The learning objectives for today's activity include: learning what research is and its purpose, researching in a variety of methods and with different mediums and materials, learning facts about endangered animals, determining what information is important and interesting, sharing research with the group, learning how to work together in an online collaborative environment, and listening to other people in their group.

**Grade Level:** kindergarten

**Lesson Duration:** 45 minutes

### Materials and Resources:

- Computer/tablet – one device per child, (JP-IK MG101 A8 – an Intel® classmate PC)
- LCD projector with audio capabilities
- VoiceThread\* account with endangered animal organizer
- Research resources on endangered animals (books, videos, web sites)
- Videos and web sites loaded on a platform to assist students in research (Edmodo\*, MentorMob\*)
- World Wildlife Fund <http://worldwildlife.org/>

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## Background/Context

Today's lesson is the research part of an integrated project-based learning on endangered animals. Prior to today's lesson, students have learned what extinct and endangered animals are, have selected six animals in need, and have formed into teams, with each team researching a different animal.

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## Activity

In today's activity students will begin collaboratively researching as they become an advocate for their animal. Students will watch videos, research on web sites, read through books, and listen to audio to assist them in finding facts on their chosen animal. These resources will be pre-loaded on Edmodo to make it easier for students to view them. Because of their barrier of beginning writing skills, students will use VoiceThread to take digital notes that all students in the group will collaborate on. The teacher has created an endangered animal VoiceThread template and students will add interesting facts they have learned about their animal. Notes are taken using either a webcam, microphone, or typing in text and each student can listen to and learn from their group members.

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## Assessments:

Teacher observation is an ongoing assessment throughout the activity. The teacher will be looking for students to be motivated to find information because they need to be an advocate for their animal. The teacher will assess to see if students are finding facts through a variety of mediums and that they are all posting them onto VoiceThread. Assessment of the amount and the quality of information researched will come when they start writing their Public Service Announcement trying to persuade the student body to vote to help their animal.

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## Wrap Up and Reflection

This activity is part of a powerful, larger unit. Once research is finished, students will script a persuasive public service announcement and will do Google Image\* searches to find images, use Movie Maker\* or any video editing software to create PSA videos which they will show to the school's student body. The students will vote on an animal to help save and all groups will come together to assist this one animal. Together they create a product, market it, and sell it to make money to send to the World Wildlife Fund to assist this animal in need.

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