

California Grizzly Bear Reintroduction Unit

The California Grizzly Research Network



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Lesson 6

Debate and Vote Lesson Plan

Background Information:

It is time for students to place their official vote on whether grizzly bears ought to be reintroduced or not. Remember, this is not their opinion as a student but rather the opinion of the role they are playing. This can be done in several ways, including but not limited to writing their vote on a piece of scrap paper and placing it into a “ballot box”. The voting process can be extended to be more engaging for the students. Students can include votes from members of the community or family members—this forces them to explain the project to others as well as get a perspective on the views of different generations, and their own personal vote in addition to their role’s vote. They could submit these votes into a separate ballot box in order to compare the views of the “general public” vs the “experts”. There could also be multiple ballot boxes. One for the votes of the experts, one for the families or community of the students, one for the entire school, one for what each student themselves believes (not their roles), etc. The teacher could also do something fun such as leave the results on the students desks in a formal envelope--making the results fun to open, or dressing up as a grizzly bear, or decorating the class with bear décor in the case that reintroduction was approved. This is up to the teacher’s discretion and unique talents. Be creative!

Time:

1 hour

Supplies:

1. Students who are ready to vote!
2. Paper for ballots
3. Smiles

Educational Outcomes:

1. Students gain more experience with dialectic.
2. Students will be able to practice their public speaking skills.
3. Students hone their expertise in their assigned field.
4. Students will be able to define why each role is for/against reintroduction.

NGSS Standards fulfilled:

1. SEP 6
2. SEP 7
3. SEP 8

Steps:

1. Start a classroom discussion about the reintroduction of grizzly bears to California. Ask students if anyone has any final words to say. This is the last chance for students to attempt to change the minds of those opposed to their opinion. Teachers can help stimulate this discussion by playing the devil’s advocate.
2. Then, it is time for the vote (yes or no to reintroduction of the grizzly bear in California).
3. Teachers count up the votes and announce the result to the students (the next day, after lunch, etc.).