



Activity 11: Working for Whoopers

Summary

Students investigate the skills they would need to pursue a career in Whooping Crane restoration.

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify and investigate the skills people need for a career in a Whooping Crane restoration project
- Identify the academic courses that a person pursuing that career would need
- Identify government and private agencies responsible for Whooping Crane reintroduction and management
- Perform research and produce a written description of how professionals achieve career employment

Standards

Environmental Education B.8.22 and B.8.23

English Language Arts CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.7

Science G.8.1

Materials Needed:

- Pens or pencils
- Paper
- Library and/or Internet access to research potential careers

Background:

Since the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership was founded in 1999, many organizations have been working together to restore an Eastern Migratory Population of Whooping Cranes. There are many different jobs involved in the restoration efforts. Some of these jobs include ornithologists, veterinarians, field biologists, geneticists, educators, photographers, journalists, pilots, refuge managers, fundraisers, and management specialists.

Procedure:

- 1) Ask students to consider what their ideal profession would be if they were working on restoring the Whooping Crane population and have them explain why.
- 2) Once students have chosen a profession, have them research what they need to do to pursue that career. They should answer the following questions in several paragraphs:
 - a) What would their profession be and why?
 - b) What academic courses and training would be required in order to pursue the career?
 - c) What would be their responsibilities?
 - d) What would be their annual salary?
 - e) Explain a typical day in their profession. Be specific.

For specific information about the responsibilities of each organization within the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership, students can visit the following websites:

- 1) Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources – <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/endangeredresources/animals.asp?mode=detail&speccode=abnmk01030>
- 2) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – www.fws.gov/midwest/whoopingcrane
- 3) Operation Migration – <http://operationmigration.org>
- 4) International Crane Foundation – www.savingcranes.org
- 5) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – www.nfwf.org
- 7) The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin – <http://www.wisconservation.org/>