



Wildlife on WiFi

Discover Wildlife Science
Weekly Lesson Plan





About *Wildlife on WiFi*

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Wildlife on WiFi (“*WoW*”) seeks to connect Pennsylvania residents to their state’s wildlife from anywhere. To achieve this, *WoW* provides innovative online learning opportunities, virtual lessons and educational resources about wildlife and its conservation.

The *Wildlife on WiFi* online education hub features 50 lessons, activities, videos, story time readings, watchable wildlife livestreams, and more!

To connect with *Wildlife on WiFi*

Wildlife on WiFi is available online at <http://bit.ly/PGCWildlifeOnWiFi>

For questions or to schedule a virtual lesson, please contact wildlifeonwifi@pa.gov.





Wildlife on WiFi Weekly Lesson Plans

About *Wildlife on WiFi* Weekly Lesson Plans

Wildlife on WiFi weekly lesson plans provide day-by-day activities to keep children learning, thinking, and getting outside! Designed for grades 5 – 9, these plans can be adapted by educators to suit their needs and grade levels.

Educators and parents may find them ideal to support at home and virtual learning, but they may also be used during regular in-person or partial in-person teaching.

Live virtual lessons from a Game Commission educator are a great way to cap off a wildlife week. To inquire about a virtual lesson, please contact wildlifeonwifi@pa.gov.





Discover Wildlife Science Weekly Lesson Plan

Overview: Pennsylvania's modern-day wildlife science is a product of many hardships that have happened in our past. In the following lessons, students will learn about the work being done by wildlife professionals to help Pennsylvania's wildlife thrive today and in the future. This weekly lesson plan reinforces critical thinking, core conservation, environment, and science concepts while incorporating local history. Activities are generally suitable for grades 5 – 9 with teacher adaptations based on age and teaching objectives.

Day	Recommended Activities
Monday	Learn about Pennsylvania's Conservation History Wildlife Reintroductions: Back to the Future Activity
Tuesday	Pennsylvania Bald Eagles: Celebrating 30 years of Restoration video Guiding Questions to Video, Bald Eagle Population Trend Activity
Wednesday	Bear Cub Video / Bear Web Cam Video Mark and Recapture: Pennsylvania Black Bear Activity
Thursday	Peregrine Falcon Wild Sci Video Motus Wildlife Tracking Activity
Friday	Wildlife Careers Activity & Share or Wildlife Professional Virtual Lesson




Day 1: Pennsylvania's Conservation History

Day 1 Activities

Begin the week having students learn about the Pennsylvania Game Commission's history with a focus on Wildlife Science by watching the [Celebrating 125 Years of Conservation Leadership](#) video. Following the video, have a short discussion on wildlife reintroduction and have students complete the [Wildlife Reintroductions: Back to the Future Activity](#) (pgs 63- 69).



Access activities by clicking the links in blue above.



Wildlife Reintroduction: Back for the Future

Objectives: Students will be able to:

- explain the reasons for the decline of specific wildlife species in Pennsylvania
- identify at least three species that were reintroduced into the state and describe their reintroduction and management practices
- describe different jobs, resources and organizations needed to reintroduce wildlife

Subjects: Environment and Ecology, Science, Social Studies, English/Language Arts


Suggested Grades: 6-12

Vocabulary: market hunting, hacking, reintroduction, extirpated, endangered, threatened, wildlife management units

Procedure: This activity is a series of questions and tasks designed to help students investigate the decline and recovery of several species in Pennsylvania. Teachers can select the questions and tasks to be assigned. All of the animals used in this activity were re-introduced into Pennsylvania.

1. Divide students into groups. Assign each group one of the animals featured on the wildlife cards.
2. Allow students time to read their wildlife card and conduct further research on the animal, if possible.
3. Assign questions for students to answer.
4. Discuss answers to the questions under each section in groups or as a class.
5. Assign tasks that you would like each student or group to complete.
6. Have students or groups present or display their completed assignment for the class.

Background: When European settlers first arrived in Pennsylvania, wetlands, rivers, and streams interspersed a land almost totally covered in forest. As more people arrived, forests were cleared for farms, towns, and cities. Timber, coal, iron, market hunting, and textile businesses boomed. By the early 1900s our waterways were polluted, land was deforested, and many wildlife species were in decline, some even extinct or extirpated from the state. Around this time many current conservation agencies and organizations came into being — the Pennsylvania Game Commission was established in 1895. During the 20th century environmental problems still occurred, but citizens, government agencies, conservation groups, businesses, and industries also began to work together to clean up the environment. Habitat loss still remains a huge concern for wildlife, but many of our forests have returned and our waterways are recovering. For more information about wildlife and conservation history, visit the Game Commission's website at www.pgc.state.pa.us.



Pennsylvania Game Commission: Managing wild birds, wild mammals and their habitats for current and future generations. www.pgc.state.pa.us

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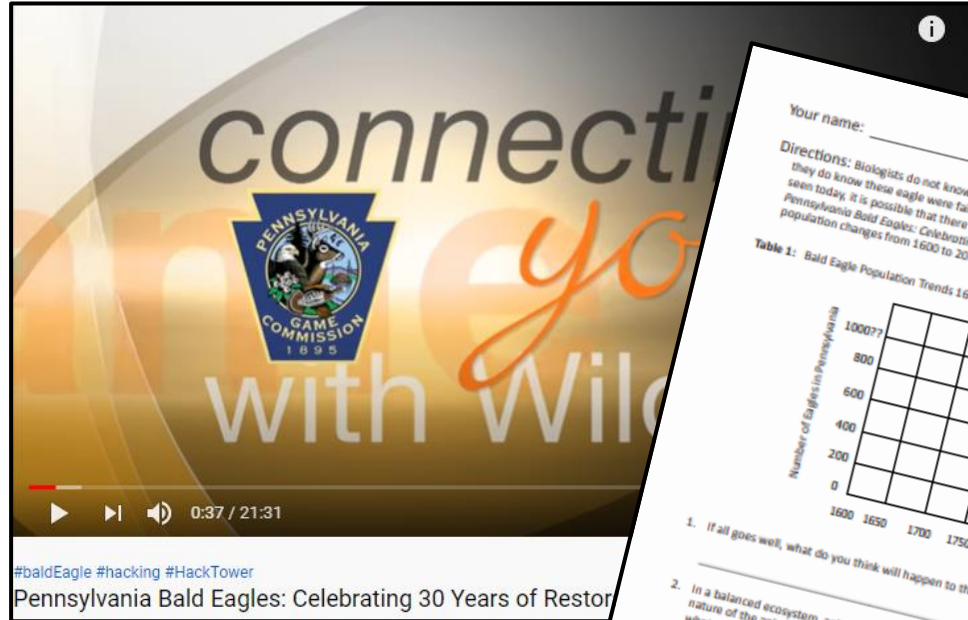
Day 2: Bald Eagles

Day 2 Activities

Students will watch the [Pennsylvania Bald Eagles: Celebrating 30 years of Restoration](#) video. Lead a follow-up discussion using the [Guiding Questions](#) (pgs 7-11), and have students complete the [Bald Eagle Population Trend Activity](#) (pg 14).



Access activities by clicking the links in blue above.



Your name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Biologists do not know how many bald eagles there were in Pennsylvania in the 1600s. However, they do know these eagles were fairly common along most waterways. Based on the incredible recovery of eagles seen today, it is possible that there were 1,000 eagles in our state during the 1600s. Using information from the Pennsylvania Bald Eagles: Celebrating 30 Years of Restoration film, draw a line graph depicting the bald eagle population changes from 1600 to 2014. Then answer the questions that follow Table 1.

Table 1: Bald Eagle Population Trends 1600 to present


Year	Number of Eagles in Pennsylvania
1600	
1650	
1700	
1750	
1800	
1850	
1900	
1950	
2000	
2050	

1. If all goes well, what do you think will happen to the eagle population after 2014?

2. In a balanced ecosystem, animal populations will eventually become stable. Population growth is limited by the nature of the animal itself and/or by one or more habitat components limiting population increases. Currently, what do you think is the limiting factor for eagles in Pennsylvania?

3. Why?

4. This young eagle is leaving the nest to explore and find a new home. Help this eagle find a place to live. Draw a picture of good habitat for this eagle in the space below.



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Developed by T. Adorni, Pennsylvania Game Commission
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Day 3: Black Bears

Day 3 Activity

Students will learn about the management of black bears by watching a video of a Game Commission biologist discussing [hibernation, dens, and cubs](#). Then, students will watch a second [video](#) of a PGC Game Warden inside a bear den that was monitored via webcam. Finish with the [Mark and Recapture: Pennsylvania Black Bear Activity](#) that includes a [PowerPoint](#), [Black Bear Wildlife Note](#), and [student worksheet](#) and [student worksheet answers](#).



Access activities by clicking the links in blue above.





Day 4: Peregrine Falcons

Day 4 Activities

Have students learn more about Peregrine Falcons survival by watching the [Peregrine Falcon Tracking #WildSciPA video](#). Following a brief discussion of the video, have students complete the [Motus Wildlife Tracking System Activity](#).





Access activities by clicking the links in blue above.

EXPLORE


Motus Wildlife Tracking System


FIND A STATION

1. Visit: www.motus.org
2. Click: Explore data
3. Select: Receiver Locations
4. Zoom and move around map to explore. Click on dots to view station information. Follow the guided instructions below.

		Find the station closest to your location:	Find a station in a location of your interest:
A	What is the station name and project ID #?		
B	What is the nearest town or city to the station?		
C	In what province/state and country is the station located?		
D	Describe the project associated with this station.		
F	How many tags have been detected at this station?		
G	Click 'Tags Detected': TABLE What species have been detected at this station?		





Motus Education



Day 5: Wildlife Careers

Day 5 Activities

Following the [Pennsylvania Game Commission Wildlife Careers](#) lesson plan, have students complete the incorporated activities to examine professions in the wildlife field. Have a shared discussion with students to see if they could envision themselves having a career with wildlife in the future.

Alternate option: Schedule a virtual lesson with PGC wildlife professionals to discuss careers in the wildlife field.



Access activities or resources by clicking the links in blue above.



Thank You!

Questions or Comments?

Let us know at wildlifeonwifi@pa.gov.