

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

TEKS OBJECTIVES:

SOCIAL STUDIES

The students will learn how Congress works.

5.17A (TEKS/SE) Identify and explain the basic functions of the three branches of government.

5.17B (TEKS/SE) Identify the reasons for and describe the system of checks and balances outlined in the U.S. Constitution.

SCIENCE

5.9C (TEKS/SE) Predict some adaptive characteristics required for survival and reproduction by an organism in an ecosystem.

5.907 Describe environmental changes in which some organisms would thrive, become ill, or perish. (3.8C)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

5.5F (TEKS/SE) Clarify and support spoken ideas with evidence, elaborations, and examples (4-8). (D)

5.5B (TEKS/SE) Demonstrate effective communications skills that reflect such demands as interviewing, reporting, requesting, and providing information (4-8). (D)

5.5A (TEKS/SE) Adapt spoken language such as word choice, diction and usage to the audience, purpose and occasion (4-8). (D)

ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES

1. The teacher or docent will pass out background information on the bill and profiles of representatives. Profiles have pertinent information such as home state, constituency, position (if any) on the bill, and what is important to them (or necessary to get their vote).
2. Students should be given about 5 minutes to review their profiles silently and then the teacher or docent will discuss the bill to make sure it is understood by all.
3. The Speaker (student) calls the House to order and the bill is read by the designated representative.
4. The Speaker (student) then calls a brief recess. During the recess, the lobbyist (students) should attempt to persuade Congressmen.
5. The Speaker then calls the House to order and calls for a vote on the bill. Vote is taken, recorded, and the results announced. Time is allotted for class discussion at end of the session.

ASSESSMENT

The students will be graded by using a rubric for public speaking.

ACCOMMODATIONS/MODIFICATIONS

The Speaker and the reader of the bill should be GT students or higher level students.

NOTES

All names and characters contained in these documents are fictional. All data and information contained in these documents is also fictional but are based on the real threat of extinction of the sawfish (*Pristis microdon*). Any resemblance to actual people, places or events (either real or imagined) is purely coincidental.