



WEAR IT WILD MASQUERADE MASKS

Wear it Wild for the world's wildlife!



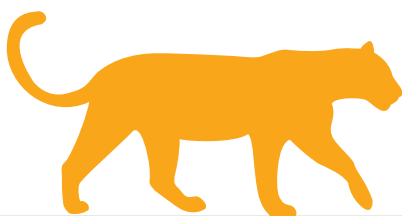
On Friday 5 June across the UK people will be dressing to show their wild side. It's all part of our brilliant new fundraising initiative to support WWF's vital conservation work around the planet. We want to create a future in which people and nature thrive together and we're inviting your class to help us by getting involved in **Wear it Wild**.

This activity sees pupils creating animal masquerade masks to dress as their favourite animal for their **Wear it Wild** celebration. How many will dress tough like a tiger, get flashy like a flamingo or strut their stuff like a snow leopard?



Getting started

- Use the video links below to introduce a selection of animals to your pupils. Look at their characteristics; what makes them unique? Talk about them; which do pupils like best? Why?
- Brainstorm a list of adjectives and adverbs to describe what each animal looks like, how it behaves and/or moves.
- Let pupils know that they've got a chance to **Wear it Wild**, to raise vital funds to help WWF protect some of the animals and habitats they've learnt about.
- Using the resources listed below, work through this activity to prepare pupils to come to school dressed as their favourite animal in return for a donation towards our work.
- Share your pupils' masks and outfits with us at wearitwild@wwf.org.uk. We'd love to see what you all get up to!



Activity steps

1. Ask pupils to consider which animal they would most like to be. Explain that they're now going to create their own masquerade eye masks for **Wear it Wild**. They'll use a template but will need to personalise this to look like their chosen animal.
2. Depending on the ability of your class, either hand out a masquerade mask photocopied onto card, or support them to use the worksheet as a template for their own mask. Supervise cutting.
3. Support pupils as they decorate their eye masks using the available materials.
4. Using either staples or sticky tape, attach one end of a drinking straw to one side of the back of the mask, so that it can be held over the face in line with the pupil's eyes.
5. Discuss what items of clothing children might want to wear to complement their mask when they **Wear it Wild**.
6. Remind them people might ask them why they chose this animal - can they remember why they liked it most of all? Why is it special to them? Is it endangered?

Resources required

- Masquerade masks worksheet
- Card
- A drinking straw (per pupil)
- Staples/sticky tape
- PVA glue
- A range of art materials to decorate

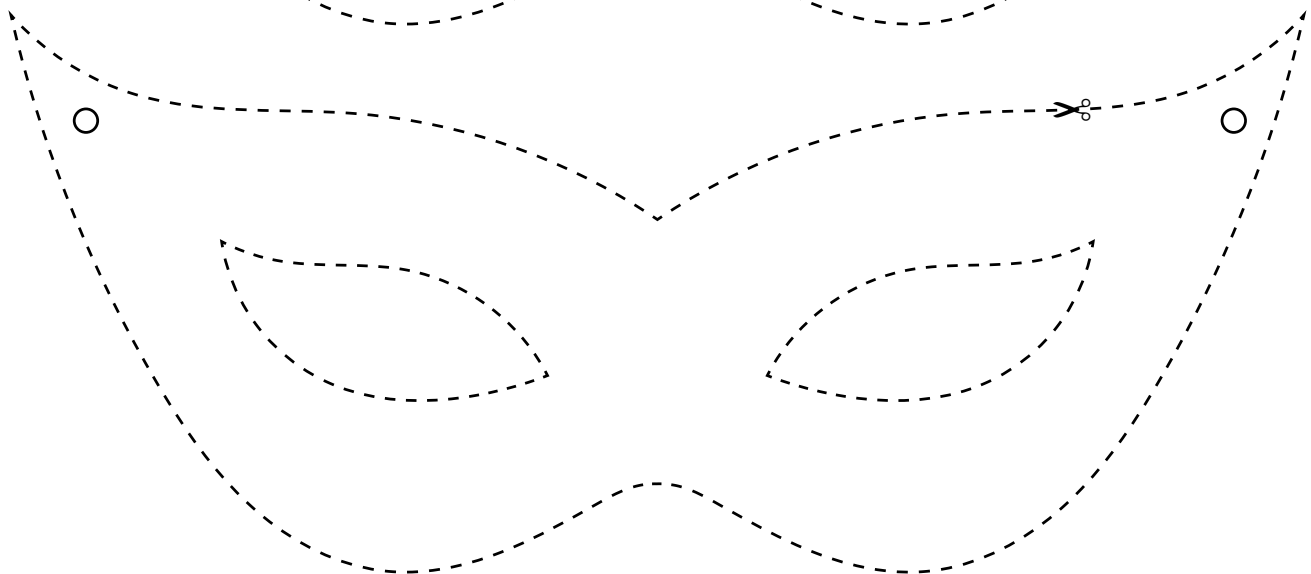
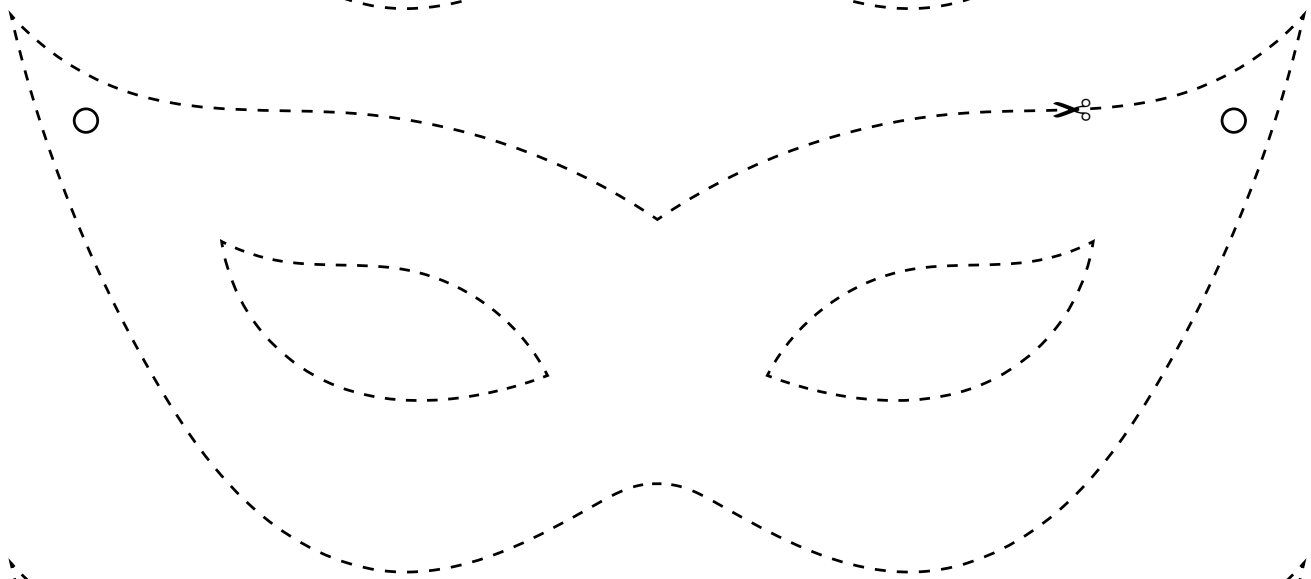
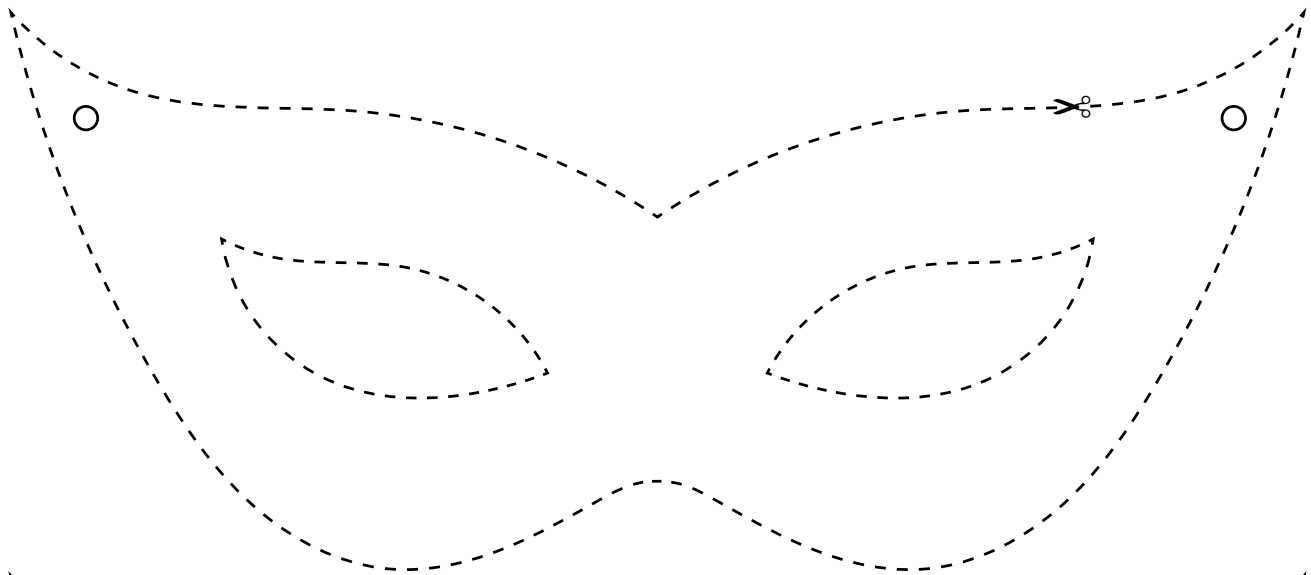
Video links

- youtube.com/watch?v=GRcihHbqo10
- arkive.org/bornean-orangutan/pongo-pygmaeus/video-00.html
- arkive.org/black-rhinoceros/diceros-bicornis/video-02.html
- arkive.org/snow-leopard/panthera-uncia/video-01.html
- youtube.com/watch?v=lbLVRzfUdde

Age 5-7

Worksheet: Masquerade masks

Colour me in, cut me out and wear me as you roar
like a lion or strut your stuff like a snow leopard.



16 species profiles packed full of interesting facts are available for registered schools.

Register at wwf.org.uk/wild



WEAR IT WILD

GIANT PANDA

Hi, I am the giant panda, universally admired for my distinctive eyes and seemingly gentle demeanour. I'm also one of the rarest and most endangered bears in the world. Read on to discover more interesting facts about me.



Where I live

I inhabit temperate montane forests in south-western China. Although, two-thirds of all wild pandas now live in nature reserves, we are still, however, endangered.
wwf.org.uk/wildlife/giant_panda/



CHARACTERISTICS

- I have a larger head and shorter legs than most bears. I have a distinctive black and white coat, most of my body and belly are white, contrasting sharply with my black ears, black limbs and shoulders, and black patches over my eyes.
- I have large muscular jaws, while my teeth are wider and flatter than those of other bears, allowing me to grind bamboo.
- I weigh 75-125kg.
- I'm not very active as most of my time is spent eating and sleeping, but I can climb using my muscly forearms. From 3-5 months of age baby pandas walk alongside their mums but can occasionally be seen piggy backing too!

DID YOU KNOW

I have a 'thumb', it's actually a modified wrist bone that enables me to grasp bamboo stalks.

MY FAMILY

The female giant panda usually gives birth to one, sometimes two cubs between July and September, although usually only one cub survives. As a cub, I am helpless after birth for the first few weeks of my life and my mother cares for me in a den located in the base of a hollow tree or in a cave. I remain dependent on my mother until I am around 18 months old. As an adult, I lead a solitary lifestyle, rarely meeting other pandas unless it's the mating season.



VIDEO

Watch footage of me:

- youtube.com/watch?v=GRcihHbqo10
- youtube.com/watch?v=R_8JAU9n2SU
- youtube.com/watch?v=jQ2YHAM_IFQ
- arkive.org/giant-panda/ailuropoda-melanoleuca/video-06.html
- arkive.org/giant-panda/ailuropoda-melanoleuca/video-08a.html
- arkive.org/giant-panda/ailuropoda-melanoleuca/video-12c.html

FEEDING

- My diet is extremely specialised, compared to other bears.
- I mainly eat bamboo, which makes up 99% of my diet but I'm really an omnivore and can sometimes eat meat other predators leave!
- I have the digestive system of a carnivore and I'm only able to digest a small proportion of the bamboo I eat, so I have to consume a great deal of food – about 38kg of bamboo shoots per day.

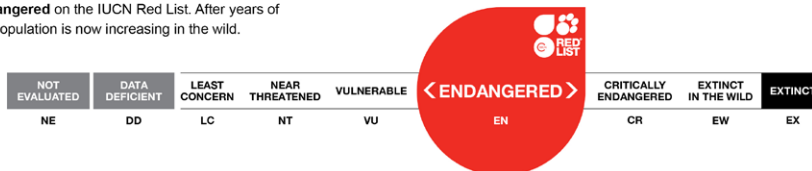


DID YOU KNOW

Although I am a good swimmer and excellent tree climber, I spend most of my time feeding – about 14 hours a day!

CLASSIFICATION

I am classified as **Endangered** on the IUCN Red List. After years of decline, however, my population is now increasing in the wild.



STATUS



Habitat loss is the greatest cause of the decline of my population. Large areas of China's natural forest have been cleared for agriculture, timber and firewood, to meet the needs of the large and growing human population.

Roads and railways are increasingly cutting through the forest, which isolates panda populations and prevents us from breeding and finding new sources of food.

My habitat is also affected by livestock grazing and people collecting medicinal herbs and harvesting bamboo – my main source of food.

There are around 1,860 pandas remaining in the wild and conservation efforts seek to grow this number.

Although poaching has been a problem in the past, the introduction of high penalties for poaching has reduced it to levels which are no longer believed to pose a significant threat to giant pandas.

Got more time?

- In pairs or small groups get pupils to research their chosen animal and to create a poster (or use multimedia tools) to showcase what they've learnt, including its unique characteristics.
- Ask pupils to imagine they're using their poster (or multimedia presentation) to launch a campaign to help raise awareness of their chosen animal. Support pupils to develop their own 'Save me' campaign slogans and display in the classroom.

Explore more amazing species

Wear it Wild is fundraising to protect some amazing species. To help you bring these to life in your classroom, we've produced a primary education pack. It will support you to run a themed week, or provides a bank of activities to dip in and out of. Use in conjunction with our species fact files, select the cross curricula activities for your class's age and stage, and ignite pupils' curiosity. The differentiated activities explore 16 focus species and the environments in which they live.



For the full pack, register your school at
wwf.org.uk/wild

WEAR IT WILD TEAM

Any questions? Contact the team!

call: 01483 426333

email: wearitwild@wwf.org.uk

post: Wear it Wild Team, WWF-UK, The Living Planet Centre,
Rufford House, Brewery Road, Woking, Surrey GU21 4LL

wwf.org.uk/wild



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Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

wwf.org.uk

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