

The Pangolin Activity Manual

English Teachers Everywhere (www.etseverywhere.com)

About the Pangolin (there's also a recording of it)

The pangolin is a funky mammal with a long tail and a long tongue. The tongue is about as long as his whole body. This allows him to slurp up ants and termites by the hundred.

The pangolin is a mammal, but he's covered in scales. The scales are made up of keratin—the same thing that your hair, your fingernails, or the horn of a rhino are made up of. Baby pangolins ride on their moms' tails.

February 21st is in fact World Pangolin Day. And it's important to know who the pangolin is. If we don't there's little chance this funky animal will survive. That's because the pangolin is caught and trafficked, mostly to China and Vietnam, where it is eaten as a delicacy or used in traditional medicine. Help the Pangolin.

LISTEN

Copy the above text and take away some words. You have now created a gap-fill activity. Play the audio. Students will write in the missing words. Remember you don't have to use the entire text. You might start with the first paragraph, like this:

The pangolin is a funky _____ with a long _____ and a long _____. The tongue is about as long as his whole _____. This allows him to slurp up _____ and termites by the hundred.

Five nouns are missing. The text is now short enough that you can write it on the board. You can play the audio five or more times (the above section is only 11 seconds long!), however many times it takes for students to succeed.

Then move on to the second and third paragraph, perhaps with a different listening task.

Song "The Pangolin" or "He's so Funky"

He's so funky, he's so funky

Who's so funky, who's so funky?

The pangolin. The pangolin.

He's a mammal who has scales

Baby rides on Mama's tale

The pangolin. The pangolin.

His tongue is really long

He slurps up termites all day long

And ants. He loves ants.

The pangolin. He's so funky.



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African Tree Pangolin

CHANT

This song features a call-and-response section that it's easy to do in class with or without playing the audio.

You: *He's so funky. He's so funky.*

Students: *Who's so funky? Who's so funky?*

Everybody: *The pangolin. The pangolin.*

LISTEN

The words to the song are short enough that again you can write a gap fill on the board. Or try a dictation. Play lines of the song again and again while students write them down.

LISTEN AND DRAW

Chances are your students have no idea what a pangolin looks like! One option is to play the audios and do the listening activities before showing students a picture. Give them a few minutes to draw what they think the pangolin could look like. Play the audios meanwhile. Afterwards compare student drawings and then show some real photographs.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

MAKE A LITTLE BOOK

Have your students make a little book. They can put in facts about the pangoling or make a story or say why they like the pangolin. See the *Pangolin Book* below (by Alla McCaughey).



Cover



Pages 1 and 2



Pages 3 and 4



Pages 4 and 5

How to make a folding book from one piece of paper:

Text: www.fimp.net/makeabook.html

Video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=RweNZmLjW9k

DRAW AND DICTATE

Print small copies of pangolin photos to class. Put students into pairs facing each other. One student receives the pangolin picture. She must not show it to her partner, or anyone else. Next she describes the picture while her partner draws based on her description. It might be best to put some words on the board ahead of time: tail, snout, scales, tongue.

CREATE A PANGOLIN POSTER

Have your students draw a cartoon pangolin, like Peter the Purple Pangolin. Give him a name. Give him a personality. On the poster write what he likes to eat, what he likes to do, his hobbies, etc. Or you can make a “Help the Pangolin” poster explaining what the pangolin is and why he needs help.



MAKE A PANGOLIN SLIDESHOW

Collect your student pangolin pictures and scan them. Then create a digital slideshow. You can use “The Pangolin (He’s So Funky)” song above as a soundtrack. Alternatively, scan or photograph student

pictures/posters and send them to me (email kevin at kevinmccaughey.com) and I will make a slideshow and put it up on youtube.

What some help drawing a pangolin? Here's a youtube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rk7SG9FqRg>

RESOURCES

Here's a great poster from pangolins.org you can download for free and use in your class.

Learn what you can do to help pangolins:

<http://savepangolins.org/help/>

<http://annamiticus.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SavePangolins>

The Most Trafficked Animal You've Never Heard Of

<http://www.cnn.com/interactive/2014/04/opinion/sutter-change-the-list-pangolin-trafficking/index.html>

The World's Most Trafficked Animal – and the Scaliest

www.bbc.com/news/magazine-30833685

