

Recommended Research for Orangutan Conservation

Note for all teachers: This is a list of recommended sources of websites, videos and articles for accurate, fun research about orangutan's importance to their ecosystem and what students can do to help conserve the species! Please make sure to **review all links** for appropriate content and reading level before assigning research to your students or showing content in class. Especially look for potential **advertisements** that may have changed since Zoo staff reviewed the site.

Top Pick #1

Title: Palm Oil Toolkit

URL: <https://www.cmzoo.org/conservation/orangutans-palm-oil/palm-oil-tool-kit/>

Type of Resource: Website (graphics, photos, educational resources, videos)

Source: Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

Notes: This website has a variety of resources that explain and help promote awareness one of the greatest threats to orangutans, unsustainable palm oil. Print graphics to help students spread awareness, see photos that show how this crisis effects the animals, watch videos that explain how you can help, and many more educational resources. *This website also contains a link to the Palm Oil Shopping Guide app that is referenced in the "Palm Oil Challenge" handout.*

#2

Title: Kids Sustainable Palm Oil Toolkit

URL: <https://www.rspo.org/resources/toolkits/kids-sustainable-palm-oil-toolkit>

Type of Resource: Article/Packet and Activities

Source: Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)

Notes: Downloadable information about palm oil and conservation for kids. While this is a 10-page packet, the language and visuals make it an easy, informative read for kids. Also available for download is a coloring book of animals affected by palm oil agriculture.

#3

Title: Orangutan Awareness Week: The Who, What, Where, When, and Why Orangutans Matter

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBmD8D0VICI>

Type of Resource: 7-minute Video with PowerPoint presentation

Source: Orangutan Alliance

Notes: Kid conservationist explains why orangutans matter, why they are endangered, and how we can help, with great enthusiasm. Includes vocabulary such as umbrella species and deforestation. *Could also be used as an example of good public speaking and use of visuals for student presentations. Discuss as a class what resources and skills they can use for their presentations.*

#4

Title: The Effects of the Palm Oil Industry on Orangutans

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnKUSW3oFo4>

Type of Resource: 4-minute video

Source: San Diego Zoo Kids

Notes: A brief introduction to primates, orangutans, and palm oil filmed at San Diego Zoo.

#5

Title: Gardener of the Forest

URL: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_A4K8ebWEus

Type of Resource: Short Film (under two minutes)

Source: BOS Foundation

Notes: This video explains how orangutans spread seeds *through their feces*, make room for sunlight when building their nests, and resulting status as a keystone species.

#6

Title: Keystone Species 101

URL: <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/keystone-species-101#whatis>

Type of Resource: Web Page

Source: Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.

Notes: The concept of Keystone Species is defined and elaborated on. *This resource is not specific to orangutans, so students will need to make connections based on previous research about how the orangutan is a keystone species.*