

Working with School-Based Audiences to Promote Climate Literacy

Saint Louis Zoo

- 3 million visitors
- 75,000+school-based visitors
- Onsite, outreach and distance learning
- K-6 primary
- April-May
- purpose
 - Curricular connections
 - Reward for performance
 - Engage students in learning



Climate Literacy Obstacles

- Less science
- More tests
- Standards
- Now climate???
- Midwest
- Zoo



Climate Literacy Obstacles

- 85% of Missouri's energy
- Doubt
- Darwin



What teachers say



- “I make sure that teachers emphasis the data and not speculate on why it is increasing. In other words, I want our students to see the correlation, but we aren't going to say "it is due to this or that“.

- “In 7th grade it is a part of the curriculum. Sometimes it’s a political issue so we have to be careful. We come at it strictly through the science lens.”

What teachers say

- “Some teachers do not believe it is happening...still”
- “Teachers and other adults have misconceptions about the causes of climate change.”



What teachers say



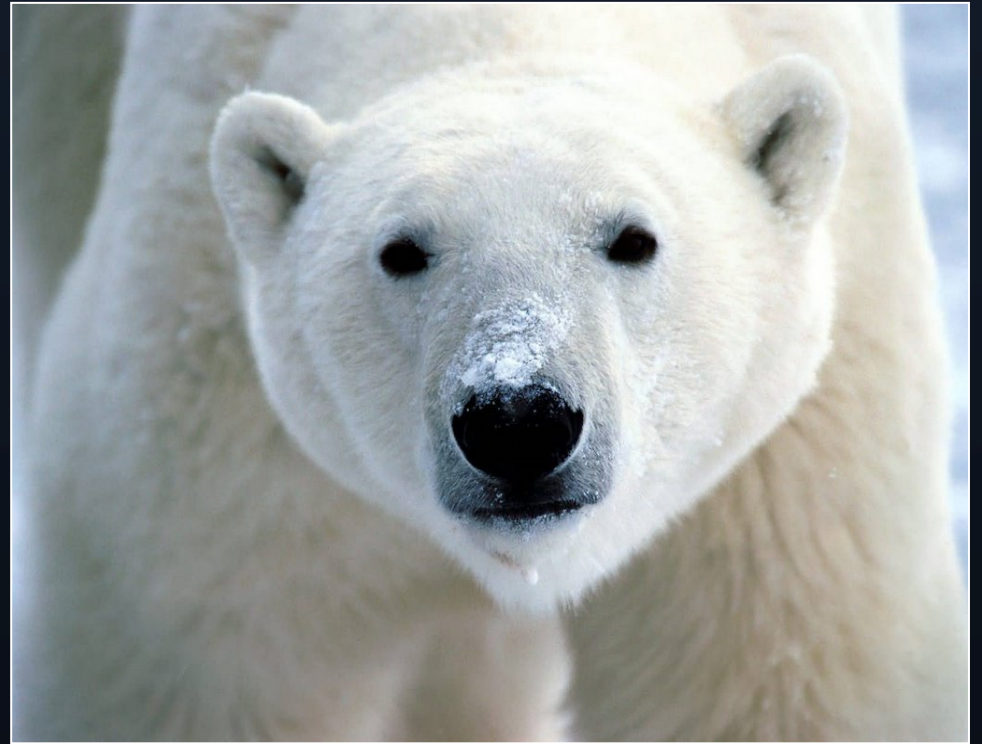
- “We teach it every chance we get...in environmental theology and ethics.
- We have chosen ‘environmental literacy’ as an area of improvement for the whole school.”

Zoo Education Experiences

- Climate change requests in outreach, overnights and school programs
- Issues investigation
- Camp conservation behaviors and school change
- Age appropriate



Zoo Education Experiences



And in the end...

- We care about animals and their future.

