



UNTAMED S2E9: Indoor Cats

Classroom Activity

This classroom activity is designed to be used as a resource that inspires conversation, critical thinking, and promotes a “big picture” understanding of topics covered in each episode. Questions may be answered individually, or out loud in a group setting. Key terms and vocabulary that will help educators and students engage in discussion include:

Wildlife vs domestic pet, invasive vs native species, predator, prey, ecosystem, population,

Group Size: Individual

Materials Needed: One printed “Unwanted” poster per student, coloring supplies, writing utensil

Time: 20-30 minutes

Instructions:

This activity allows students to elaborate on why pet cats belong indoors; when allowed to roam outside, domestic cats present a serious and proven threat to wildlife and the environment.

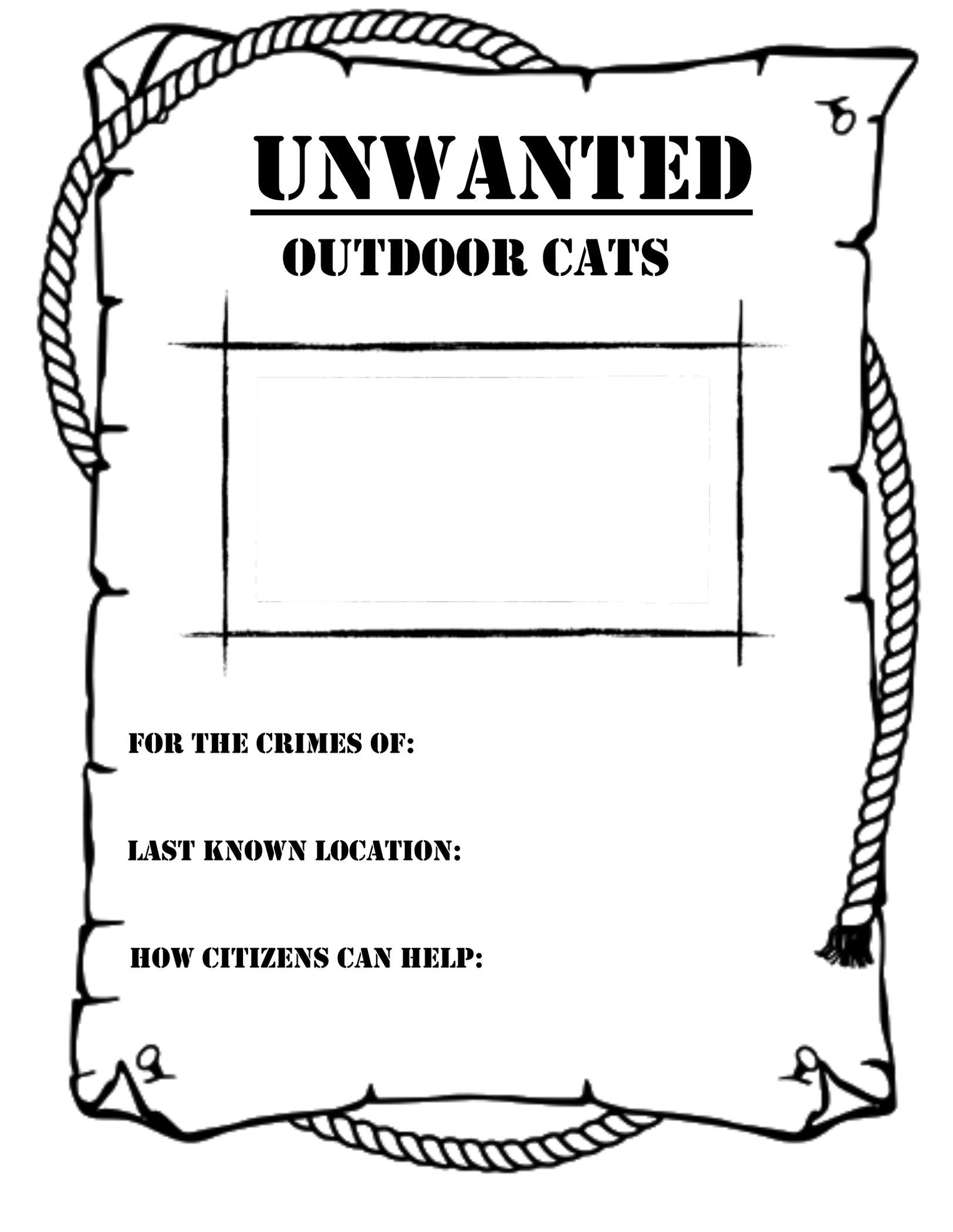
Begin by recapping the difference between wild animals and domesticated animals. Lead a classroom discussion on the impacts outdoor cats have on their environments: they kill or injure countless numbers of native wildlife each year, their presence in an area can disrupt nesting sites and young-rearing behaviors, they out-compete native predators for food resources, etc.

Explain that students will be creating “Unwanted” posters for outdoor cats, and distribute posters to each student.

Using coloring supplies, students should create a picture of what an outdoor cat might look like. Provide ideas for students while they work. Their cat might be a family pet and have a collar and name tag, or it might be an unowned feral cat. It might be stalking a bird, or hiding in a bush. It might look sick or thin from being outdoors, or it might be full from its last meal.

Afterwards, have students fill out the three sections below their drawing with information learned during the introductory discussion. “For the crimes of” may include any negative impacts that outdoor cats have on wildlife and the environment. “Last known location” may be referring to a place a student has actually seen an outdoor cat, or a general area nearby where cats may be found (a neighborhood, public park, etc.). “What citizens can do to help” allows students to present ideas they have to help people keep cats indoors, or ideas on how they can educate others about the negative impact outdoor cats create.

To conclude the activity, ask students to share the information they’ve written on their posters and have a group discussion on ideas that were common throughout the classroom.



UNWANTED
OUTDOOR CATS

FOR THE CRIMES OF:

LAST KNOWN LOCATION:

HOW CITIZENS CAN HELP: