

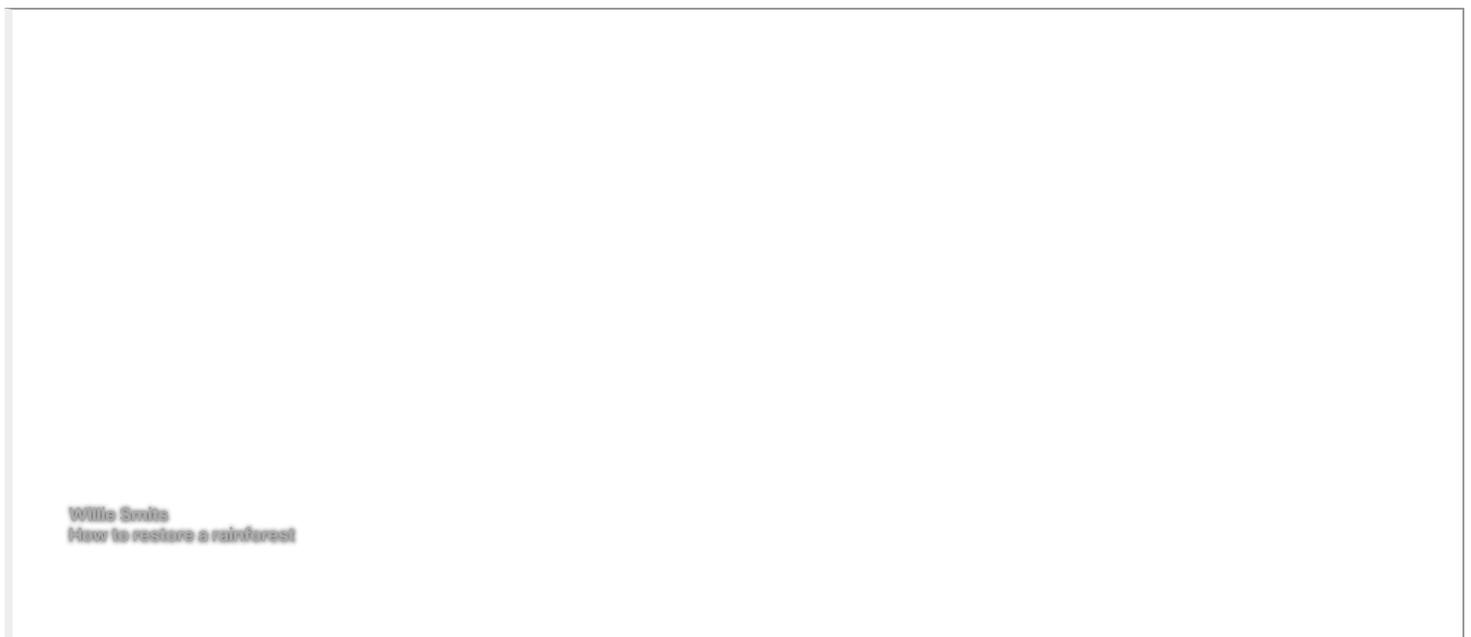
DEFORESTATION IN BORNEO WITH SNC2D

JACLYN CALDER (/USERS/JACLYN-CALDER)

As a class we watched a TED Talk by Willie Smits on the deforestation of Boreo for the palm oil industry. The science described in the video can be challenging for grade 10 students, however it engaged them thoroughly in the topic. During the video, students brainstormed questions they had about the science in an online chat (www.todaysmeet.com (<http://www.todaysmeet.com>) or D2L chat tool worked well for us). After the video, we took the brainstormed questions and organized them in a Google Doc. This allowed us to focus in on 10 - 15 big ideas or concepts.

Some examples:

- what is a monoculture?
- what products do you find palm oil in?
- what is climate change?



After we divided up the questions, students researched their topics and each group created a Voicethread slide. Voicethread is a tool that lets you put up an image, video, document or slide and then leave audio comments over top. This gave students a way to explain what they learned through their research without having to write a long, polished document. The entire activity took us a period and a half and we then watched and discussed the learning after. It ended up leading into a larger, more detailed project.

Information about Voicethreads can be found here: <https://voicethread.com/howto/>
(<https://voicethread.com/howto/>)

One of the benefits of posting our voicethread online was that someone who had actually been to Borneo and witnessed the clear-cutting commented and connected with us (<http://calderscience.edublogs.org/2012/09/13/deforestation-in-borneo-studying-the-situation/#comments>). Another benefit from this learning activity was that students developed language and scientific concepts through researching questions that they had developed. We then had a context to connect our learning to throughout the course.



Alyssa Byrd on **September 13, 2012 at 9:11**

pm said:

Hello All! I was in Sarawak, Malaysia (Borneo) for two months this past summer doing ethnobotany research. I spent time collecting culinary plants used within two Indigenous groups, the Penan of Long Iman village in Mulu, and Bidayuh of Kampung Kiding. Both villages are without roads, motor bikes or automobiles, and striving to balance traditional living with modern sustenance and realities.

When I took a flight from Kuching (Sarawak) to Mulu, it was shocking to see how much clear-cutting was in evidence below. I had heard about all of the Indonesian deforestation, but not so much on the Malaysian side. Some of the animals at risk for extinction in Borneo include: pygmy elephant, Sumatran rhino, Orangutan, Bornean Bay Cat, and Hose's Civet among many others. In addition there are many plants at risk due to habitat loss. My work was based on plants, but while there I was exposed to other research as well, including a talk by Dr. Jedediah Brodie who does camera trapping

throughout Malaysian Borneo to get rare footage of endangered species.

It is awesome that your class is getting to research global conservation issues, as they will be able to apply their knowledge to local issues as well. I for one have been shocked to find palm oil in the labels of many products I use, from convenience snacks to those found even in health food aisles, and even in facial and body cosmetics! I am eager to eliminate palm oil products from my home, as I am sure your students are as well. Good luck!

Reply ↓

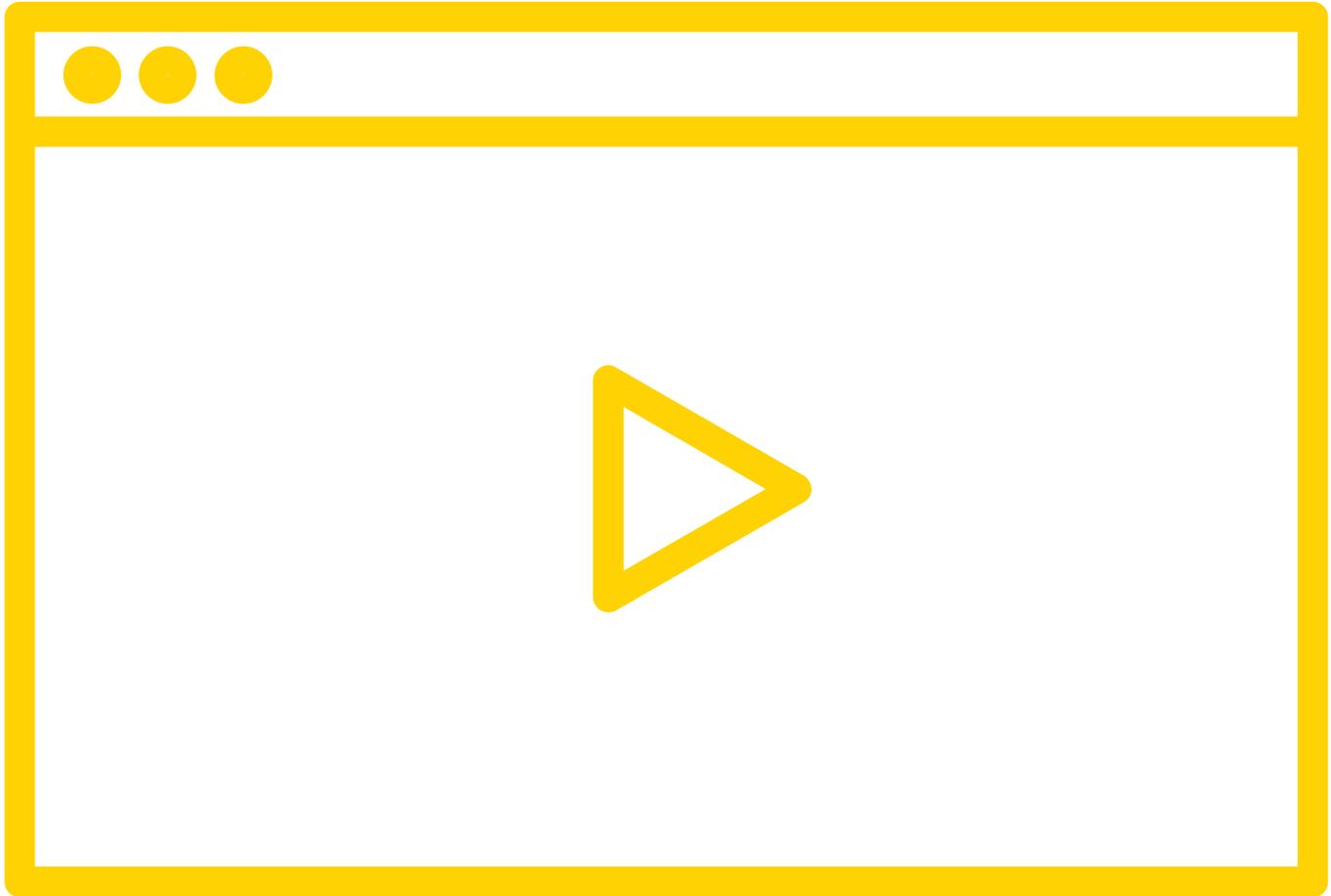
DIGITAL ONLINE SAFETY NOTES:

- school and board polices must be adhered to
- parent permission is required
- terms of use and privacy terms of any digital tool must be considered
- digital citizenship and literacy learning must be integrated into course, throughout the semester



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WATCH THE VIDEO

04:52 min

([//www.youtube.com/embed/N5YCZOBqTjA?width=800&height=450&iframe=true](http://www.youtube.com/embed/N5YCZOBqTjA?width=800&height=450&iframe=true))

RESOURCES

-  Willie Smits TED Talk (<http://www.ted.com/talks/view/lang/en//id/475>)
-  Voicethread About and How-To's (<https://voicethread.com/howto/>)

ELEMENT

-  Technology Enabled Learning ([/expert-elements/technology-enabled-learning](http://expert-elements/technology-enabled-learning))



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