



CLASSROOM DISCUSSION: Peter Gros from the Original Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom (15 min. total)

Show & Theater Company:

- Peter Gros of Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom

Art Form

- A live demonstration of wild animals

Context:

- *Wild Kingdom* is a television show that began in 1963 about wildlife and nature, hosted by a wildlife expert.
 - ? How long ago did the television show start? (51 years!)
- The television show and the live show with Peter Gros both focus on the importance of wildlife conservation.
 - ? What does it mean to conserve something?
 - Example: When we are low on water in the community or in a drought, we conserve water, meaning we save and protect it because it's an important resource.
 - ? So what is wildlife conservation? (Working to protect our planet's wildlife.)
 - ? What does it mean for an animal or plant to be extinct? (It has completely died out and no longer exists on our planet.)
- We've all heard of endangered species, meaning it's in danger of going extinct, but did you know there are specific reasons that qualify an animal as "endangered"?
 - *Near threatened* means that a species will probably be in trouble in the near future.
 - A *vulnerable species* has declined by 30-50%, with less than 10,000 of mature (or adult) individuals in existence, and at least a 10% chance of becoming extinct in 100 years.
 - An *endangered species* has declined by 50-70%, with less than 2,500 of mature (or adult) individuals in existence, and at least a 20% chance of becoming extinct in 20 years.
 - A *critically endangered species* has declined by 80-90%, with less than 250 of mature (or adult) individuals in existence, and at least a 50% chance of becoming extinct in 10 years.
 - ? What are some ways that we can help protect endangered species? (Learn about animals, volunteer donate, etc.)

Main concepts/characters:

- Peter Gros is the host of our live show, but he starred in the television show *Wild Kingdom* for nearly 20 years. Mr. Gros has over 30 years of experience as a wildlife expert.
- Some of the animals the show might include are:

○ Kookaburra	○ Eurasian eagle owl	○ Beaver
○ Large boa constrictor	○ Black vulture	○ Crested African porcupine
○ Madagascar hissing roaches	○ Binturong (also called a pole cat)	○ Lemur
○ African monitor lizard	○ Legless lizard or glass snake	○ Large red legged tarantula

Special things to look for:

- ? How does Mr. Gros treat the animals?
- ? What are some ways he keeps the animals calm in front of so many people?
- ? How does he use his body and his voice to communicate with the animals?

Theater Etiquette:

- Respect the theater, one person to a seat, limit bathroom breaks, do not kick the seats, no food or drink in the theater (bottled water okay), and turn off cell phones/no texting (even for adults!).
- ? How is watching live theater different than watching a movie or TV?

Show info: *Peter Gros from the Original Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom* • Monday, January 28, 2019 • 9:30am • Grades PK-6

Peter Gros



Kookkaahurra
Kookkaahurra