DAVID SHEPHERD WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Photography or Film and Media *Studies*

Conservation and the Art of Storytelling



Image credit: Save The Rhino Trust (Namibia)

The Art of Survival: FIGHT • PROTECT • ENGAGE

In this lesson you will learn about the conservation work of David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation and their partner 'Musekese Conservation' in Zambia and the responsibilities of a wildlife ranger.

Through analysing frames from a film created for this organisation you will learn how shot selection relates to narrative development and conveys messages and values.

This will help you to create your own visual narratives and to investigate conservation as a stimulus for personal project development.



Image credit: Save The Rhino Trust (Namibia)

Q.1

What is wildlife conservation?
Write down notes on the key areas of wildlife conservation

Research using the DSWF website and partner site to gain further understanding.
www.davidshepherd.org
www.musekeseconservation.com

Q.2

Where is photography and film used in wildlife conservation?

Film 1 - Interview with a ranger



Q.3

What are the many responsibilities of a ranger as seen in the film?

Q.4

Create a mind map (see key terms below).

Film 2 - Musekese Conservation by The Rusty Mokoro



The aim of this film is to tell the story of the people and wildlife of the Kafue National Park and the work of Musekese Conservation. The filmmakers describe themselves as conservation documentary storytellers.

Q.5 What is the purpose of the film?

Q.6 What cinematic techniques do they use to tell the conservation story?

Main Task

Like stills photographers who produce sketches or shoot plans, filmmakers create storyboards to pitch their ideas to clients. These are annotated with additional information that explain the purpose of each shot and examples of the type of imagery and mood they want to create.

Q.7

Create a storyboard in 6 frames that tell the story of one or two responsibilities of a ranger.

Choose from 20 stills taken from the film.

Annotate each frame with:

- A description of the purpose of the shot. What is it doing?
- Technical information on style, camera angle, viewpoint, composition, lighting.

Q.8 Present your storyboard to the class. Select a spokesperson to tell the story that you have created.

Q.9 Write notes on what was successful about your storyboard and how you could improve to make the story clearer.

Extension Activity

Identify a local conservation issue or organisation. Draw up a storyboard as though pitching to the organisation or local government. Annotate to explain the purpose of each shot and technical information.

Your storyboard should raise awareness of this local conservation issue.

Helpful Vocabulary

Term	Definition
Conservation	The protection of plants and animals and natural areas, especially from the damaging effects of human activity.
Custodian	A person with responsibility for protecting or taking care of something or keeping something in good conditions (Cambridge Dictionary online) In this case the communities living within and around the Kanu National Park are 'custodians' of the land.
Habitat	The natural environment in which an animal or plant usually lives.
Biodiversity	The number and types of plants and animals that exist in a particular area or in the world generally, or the problem of protecting this.
Ecosystem	All the living things in an area and the way they affect each other and the environment.
Species	A set of animals or plants in which the members have similar characteristics to each other and can breed with each other.
Kafue National Park	The oldest and largest of Zambia's national parks. Spanning 22400km of Western Zambia.



Image credit: Musekese Conservation

Musekese Conservation
Operational Area: Musekese-Lumbeya Intensive Protection Zone within Kafue National Park, Zambia.
musekeseconservation.org

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