

PRINTABLE NOTECARDS FOR THE PRESENTER

In black - script for presentation (or use your own words)

In blue - helpful instructions

SLIDE 1 INTRODUCTION

Please introduce yourself to your audience. You could say:

" Hello, (as you know) my name is and I am here today to talk about lions.

When I learned that lions are in danger of becoming extinct, I decided it was time to take action. Thankfully, the Kevin Richardson Foundation has been working to save and protect lions for many years and they are inviting students around the world to join their cause. This is how I got involved.

The Foundation's first youth ambassadors, Elliot and Finn, helped me put together this presentation and we hope that learning about lions will inspire you to stand up for lions too. Let me introduce you to Kevin, Elliot and Finn."

Please click on the video link now!

When the video has ended say:

"I would now like to tell you a little more about lions and the problems they face..."

SLIDE 2 KING OF THE JUNGLE

The goal of this slide is to get the students in your audience to think about the lion as an iconic (widely known for being important or heroic) animal and to realize that we see images of lions all around us, in movies, music and advertising.

The lion is not just a beautiful animal, but it is also a symbol for strength, courage and royalty.

Try to get the audience to take part by asking questions like the ones we have written below.

"When you think about lions for a minute, you realize that it is such a well-known and famous animal. You probably know the expression "the lion is the king of the jungle".

*What comes to **your** mind when you think about lions?*

Can you name some famous lions?

Do you know any famous songs or movies about lions?

Hopefully, the audience will answer and name some examples. You can talk about this for a minute or 2. If no one answers you can say:

"I have a few examples for you:

-There are 3 lions on shirts of the English football team.

- Lions are often part of a royal coat of arms like in the Netherlands or for the house of Gryffindor in Harry Potter.

- Lions are also used as a car logo, do you know the logo PEUGEOT uses?

-You probably all know the movie The Lion King.

It's difficult to imagine a world without lions. And yet...if we don't change our ways there may be no lions left in the wild in 30 years from now.

SLIDE 3 FUN LION FACTS

Just read out the fun facts listed on the slide. To make it easier for you, we have written the same fun facts here:

- *"Lions are very social, live in groups called prides and love snuggling. Just look at one of Kevin's YouTube videos and you can even see what I mean.*
- *Male lions defend the territory while female lions do most of the hunting. Funnily enough the male still gets to eat first though.*
- *A lion's roar can be heard as far away as 8 kilometers.*
- *A lion can run short distances at 80 kilometers per hour*
- *A lion's heels don't touch the ground when it walks.*
- *Although lion's are called "King of the Jungle" they only live in grasslands or plains.*
- *Lions need a lot of sleep and may sleep up to 20 hours a day."*

SLIDE 4 MESSAGE PART 1

Read out loud the text on this slide and stop for a few seconds to let the message sink in. Then continue to the next slide.

"Can you imagine a world without lions?..."

SLIDE 5 MESSAGE PART 2

Read the text on this slide, slowly and clearly:

"And yet, if we don't take action, there may be no lions left in the wild in 30 years."

SLIDE 6 LIONS THEN AND NOW

Point to the picture on the left and say:

"The light green color in this image of Africa shows you where lions used to live and roam freely 100 years ago. As you can see, wild lions lived in most African countries. There were around 450.000 wild lions at that time."

Now point to the picture on the right and say:

"And this picture shows you where lions are living today. Unfortunately, lions lost a lot of territory. There are now only around 15.000 wild lions left in Africa."

SLIDE 7 WILD LIONS

Please read the text below while the audience is looking at the picture:

"As you may have noticed, I have been talking about lions living in the wild. It is important to realize that there is a big difference in challenges faced by lions living in the wild and lions that are born in captivity.

"A lion can be called a wild lion if it lives in an area without humans. This means that lions are free to roam and hunt for their own food. When they are sick or injured, they will die of a natural cause without veterinarians coming in to try and cure the lion."

SLIDE 8 CHALLENGES FACED BY LIONS IN THE WILD

Please read these notes below while the audience is looking at this slide. Try to point at each heading written in bold while you read the heading out loud.

"Habitat Loss

This is the biggest threat to wild lions: it means that lions have less and less land to feed, breed and raise their young.

Because it is such a big threat, I will talk more about this in the next slide.

Poaching is the illegal hunting and killing of animals, using cruel (and prohibited) traps and snares. Sadly, lions are often a victim of poaching for bushmeat trade and lion bone trade.

- **Bushmeat Trade** is poaching smaller wild animals such as hare, snakes and monkeys for local consumption or for sale. However, this cruel activity affects lions as well.
 1. First of all, lions can get trapped and killed or seriously wounded by the traps and snares.
 2. And secondly, bushmeat is an important source of food for lions. With less bushmeat available, lion prides are getting smaller and smaller because there is just not enough food for all.

- **Lion Bone Trade and Muti Trade**

When international organizations put a stop to trade in tiger bones, poachers quickly realized that this meant that a new market for lion bones opened up. In several Asian countries people believe that lion bones have healing powers and are willing to pay a lot of money for a lion's skeleton. Even worse, it has become fashionable for wealthy Asians to serve lion bone cakes or lion bone wine at their parties."

At the same time, in some African countries the heads, tails and paws of lions are used in traditional medicine known as muti.

Revenge killing is exactly what it says...killing out of revenge:

When farmers move onto lions' territory, lions roam close to these farms and sometimes kill the farmers' cattle or sheep. Farmers are mostly very poor and depend on their livestock to survive. So you can probably understand why farmers get upset if their valuable cow is killed by a lion. In revenge the farmers hunt and kill the lion. This way the threat of the lion is gone."

SLIDE 9 HABITAT LOSS

Read the notes below while the audience is looking at the slide:

"A wild lion's habitat or natural environment is grassland, woodland or savannah. Each lion pride needs a large chunk of land to find enough food to survive.

With more and more people being born on this planet every day, people need more space to live and are moving their towns and farms onto lion's territory. This means that humans and lions are now in competition for space and food.

Most of the other problems that lions face, are caused by to people living too close to lions and is therefore called the human versus predator conflict."

SLIDE 10 LIONS BORN IN CAPTIVITY

Read the notes below while pointing at the different pictures in the mind map and explain to the audience what each picture means.

“Lions that are born in captivity face different, but also very real problems. Safari parks that breed lions, make money of the whole lifecycle of the lion, from the moment it is born, until the moment it is hunted or poached and killed.”

Cub petting:

Many tourists travel to Africa each year in the hope to see wild animals in their natural habitat. Unfortunately, there are many safari parks that try to attract tourists by selling them a lie: tourists are told that the park has rescued abandoned lion cubs which tourists are welcome to feed and pet. The parks also say that these cubs will be released back in the wild once they have grown. That never happens.

Overbreeding:

Instead the cubs are often taken away from their mothers after a few weeks, sometimes even days, after they are born . In this way the breeder can ensure that the lioness can become pregnant again quickly. This means that the lioness has no time to rest and recover and can become exhausted and ill, and the lion cub misses the precious first weeks of its life with its mother.

Walking with Lions

At 6 months old, the lion cubs are much bigger and may be dangerous around children. But they don't have their beautiful manes yet that male lions are known for. That means they are still not attractive to hunters who prefer to hunt fully grown male lions. So while the breeder waits for the lion to mature, the breeder may look for another way to make money off these lion “teenagers”. This attraction is called Walking with Lions and it is exactly that; tourists can take these lions for a supervised walk around the safari park.

Canned lion hunting and the Lion Bone Trade

Once the lion is fully grown, he is big enough to look good as a hunted trophy.

Trophy hunters from abroad can pay anything between \$15,000 and \$50,000 to shoot a lion.

Hunting a wild lion is terrible, but to hunt a lion that was born in captivity is just cowardly and cruel. There are game ranches that offer a 100% success rate to kill a lion. They also guarantee that you can kill a lion within a few days. In other words “the hunt is in the can”, which means that it is a done deal. And so the term “canned hunting” was born.

The game ranches have found ways to make it very easy to find and kill the captive lion within a few days. The lions sometimes wear a tracker so that the ranger knows exactly where the lion is. Sometimes the lions are tranquilized, or bait (a large chunk of meat) is left to ensure an easy kill.

I mentioned that the Lion Bone Trade is a threat to wild lions. Unfortunately, captive lions often end up being sold for their valuable skeleton as well.

SLIDE 11 BEST PLACE FOR A LION

Read the note below while the audience is looking at the slide:

"We need to try and stop these cruel tourist attractions. Lions have no place in captivity, but need to be living with its pride, in its own habitat."

SLIDE 12 WHAT IS CONSERVATION?

Read the notes below while the audience is looking at the slide:

*"Conservation comes from the word **conserve, which means to protect and save**. So, nature and wildlife conservation, means protecting ecosystems (like oceans, forests, and savannah) around us and all the animals and plants that live in them. People often think you need to be a scientist to be a wildlife conservationist, but this is not true. Anyone who is doing their bit to help protect and save wild animals is a wildlife conservationist. Signing up to be a youth ambassador for our Foundation or organizing a bake sale to raise money for wildlife organizations, are all acts that make you a conservationist."*

SLIDE 13 THE KEVIN RICHARDSON FOUNDATION

Read the notes below:

"Knowing that many problems are created as soon as humans enter a lion's habitat, the Foundation raises money to buy land for lions. This land is made secure by fences and anti-poaching rangers (wildlife protection police) and creates a safe environment for lions and many other species with enough natural prey and food for all animals.

The Foundation is working hard to put a stop to the cruel practice of canned lion hunting.

And thirdly...and this is where you come in...the Foundation would love to involve you and your friends in our work and our wish to save lions and other endangered species. How great if you too would become a youth ambassador and wildlife conservationists. Small steps each time, but together we can become a force to be reckoned with."

SLIDE 14 HOW YOU CAN HELP

[Read the notes below:](#)

*“Would you like to help protect wildlife or maybe become a youth ambassador? You can help us!
This is how:*

- Share what you have learned today with your friends and family.*
- Follow and like Kevin on social media. Watch his YouTube videos, they are cool!*
- Organize a fundraiser, maybe a bake sale at your school.*
- Download and give this presentation.*

We would love it if you decide to get involved in wildlife conservation!

And now, I would like to hand this presentation back over to Elliot and Finn AND an important surprise guest who is here with a special message for you!

[Click the link to the video!](#)

You did it! Fantastic! Thank you from all of us!