Zoo Matchmaker
Extension 1 – NY Times Article

Students who completed the *Zoo Matchmaker* program simulated selective breeding of four generations of captive tigers with the goal of maintaining the maximum amount of genetic diversity within the population of captive tigers. Ultimately the goal could be to repopulate the wild with tigers that were bred in captivity. Maximizing genetic diversity would help to insure that tigers released to the wild would have the diversity to survive the unknown rigors of the jungle.

The article "Wild Wildlife" from the *New York Times*, which includes a sub article called "Improbably Tigers" by Natalie Angier provides information about locations of endangered animals, mythology and history of tigers, causes of tiger population status, etc.

Procedure
Go to www.NYTimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons
In this lesson, students investigate the moral, economic and ecological impacts of the extinction of various animal species. Students assess how and why people support and dislike actions that lead to the extinction of animals. They will also examine how the wild tiger population has grown from near-extinction to its present status due to conservation efforts.

Randomly split class in half. Have one group explain how/why some people engage in activities that lead to the extinction of some animals; the other half should try to explain how/why some people reject activities that lead to the extinction of some animals.

Have students present their thoughts in front of the class – allow time for interaction and debate.

Have all students use the article to answer the following questions.

1. What economic and physical steps have been taken to reduce the threat to the tiger population?
2. Describe the tiger's natural habitat?
3. What physical features increase a tiger's chance of survival?

Have students go to an atlas or other source to help answer these questions

4. Where are the various biomes of the world located?
5. Where and in which biomes are the high concentrations endangered species?
6. What is the relationship between the pattern of endangered species and human activities?
7. What actions would you recommend to reduce the occurrence of species becoming endangered?