Teacher's Lesson Plan
Time: 40 minutes

Introduction:

Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge's mission is to provide lifetime refuge for abandoned, abused, and neglected big cats with an emphasis on tigers, lions, leopards, and cougars. Our vision is through public education we can work to end the Exotic Animal Trade, making sanctuaries like Turpentine Creek no longer necessary; together, we can preserve and protect these magnificent predators in the wild for our children's future.

This lesson plan provides students the ability to identify what a predator is, why Turpentine Creek has to rescue and care for them, and that they are meant to be in the wild, not kept as pets.

Background:

Currently there are more tigers in backyards as pets (5,000) in the United States than in the entire wild in Asia (3,800). By teaching our students early on about how wildlife should be treated, we can make a huge impact on their survival. This lesson plan was developed to aid educators in teaching students the difference between domesticated and wild animals, why wild animals are not good pets, and what we can do to help save wildlife for the future. By learning how to protect wildlife, we can make a difference in animal welfare, saving animals from a life of abuse and neglect.

Title: Predators, NOT Pets

Theme: Predators are dangerous animals who hunt for their food, and use their skills as a predator for survival. Wild animals do not lose their natural hunting instincts and protective nature when taken out of the wild, and placed into captivity. Wild animals deserve a life of freedom. However, when people try and keep them as pets, they lose their fear of humans, cannot care for themselves, and cannot be released into the wild. Sanctuaries like Turpentine Creek save these animals from people who do not care for them, and provide them with the most natural life possible in captivity free from human contact.

Objective: Identify differences between predators and pets, and wild versus domesticated animals. Students will understand the issues facing exotic pet ownership, and what they can do to help protect wildlife for the future.

Resources: Lesson plan for appropriate grade level, printed activity books, and vocabulary list

Online Resources: TCWR Website, TCWR You-tube Channel Lesson Plan Evaluation

Please feel free to use any worksheets appropriate for your classroom

Teacher Materials: dry erase board and marker, pictures or videos of animals, crayons/markers, pencil.

*Worksheets are for educational, classroom or personal use only, and should not be shared publicly or reproduced at any time. Please contact TCWR's Education Department at: education@tcwr.org with questions or concerns.

Kindergarten

K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1, K-ESS3-3

Class Procedure: Introduce the theme of the lesson to the class.

1. Form a list of words and examples as a class, having students identify **patterns** that different predators need for **survival**.
    a. Class Questions: What is a predator? Where do they live? What do predators eat? What do predators need to survive?
2. Have students describe characteristics of domesticated animals/pets with a class list or drawing using the questions above.
3. **Worksheet 4**, have students **observe** the pictures, and using the patterns identified above, complete the worksheet. **K-LS1-1**
4. Ask students to **model** the differences of a predator and a pet and where they **live** on **worksheet 5**.
    a. Class Questions: How are they the same? How are they different? What are their needs for **survival**? **K-ESS3-1**
5. After brainstorming, discuss with students that wild animals are often kept as pets. Ask them if they think it is a good idea. **Worksheet 6**
6. Construct an **argument** as a class if wild animals can meet their needs **outside** of a natural environment. What about domestic animals? **Worksheet 7, K-ESS2-2**
    a. How do humans impact the environment for each type of animal?
7. Communicate the problems with having wild animals as pets together: **Worksheet 8**
    a. They are dangerous
    b. Not friendly or tame because you raised them
    c. They can hurt you or kill you
    d. Owning them takes them away from a life in the wild
    e. They can never be released or let go back into the wild
    f. People cannot give wild animals everything they need to be happy
8. Discuss as a class what **solutions** we can accomplish as humans to **protect** wildlife around us in the **local environment** and around the world. **K-ESS3-3**

Class Discussion:

1) What is something new that you learned about animals?
2) Should wild animals be kept as pets? What evidence have we discovered?
3) How can we help save wild animals?
4) Where should wild animals be kept if they cannot go back into the wild?
5) What kind of animals are good pets?

Conclusion:

1) Wild animals should never be kept as pets. They are "**predators, not pets"**-say as a class together
2) We can protect wildlife by saving their home and kept in the wild.
3) Domesticated animals are okay to keep as pets, and need to be cared for just like we care for ourselves.
4) Sanctuaries are important to save wild animals from captivity, giving them forever care.

Vocabulary List

Captivity: **not able** to roam free, need people to survive

Carnivore: an animal that eats **only meat**

Conservation: **protecting** of natural environment and wildlife

Dangerous: able or likely to **cause harm** or injury

Domestic Animal: tame or **friendly**, lives with humans, dogs, cats, farm animals

Endangered Species: a type of animal seriously at risk of **disappearing forever**, becoming **extinct**

Environment: **surroundings** or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives

Exotic Animal: **not native** or from the area that it lives in, introduced by people

Extinct: a species, family, or group of animals that **no longer exist** or are living

Freedom: not being restricted, able to **move around freely** and easily, wild

Herbivore: an animal that eats **only plants**

Omnivore: an animal that eats **both** meat and plants

Pet: a **domestic or tame** animal kept by people for companionship or pleasure

Predator: an animal that kills other animals for **food** to survive or live

Refuge: **Free** from harm, kept in captivity

Sanctuary: a place of **refuge or safety** in captivity, providing care for wild animals

Tame: a **not dangerous** animal or frightened of people, domesticated animals

Welfare: health, **happiness**, and well-being

Wild Animal: **not domestic** or tame, lives in natural environment, not with people

Survival Game: Animal vs. Human
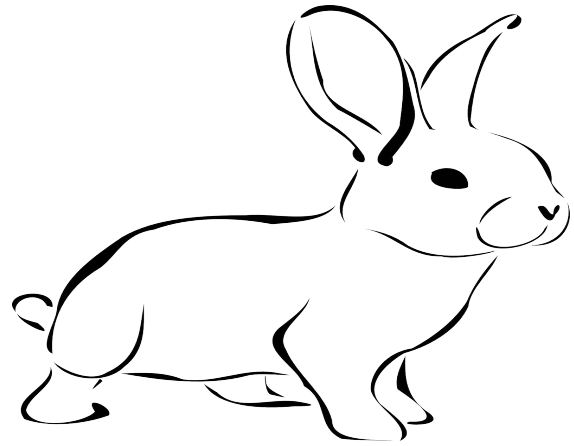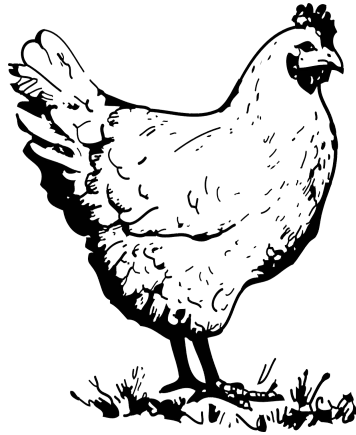Draw a line to what these animals need to survive
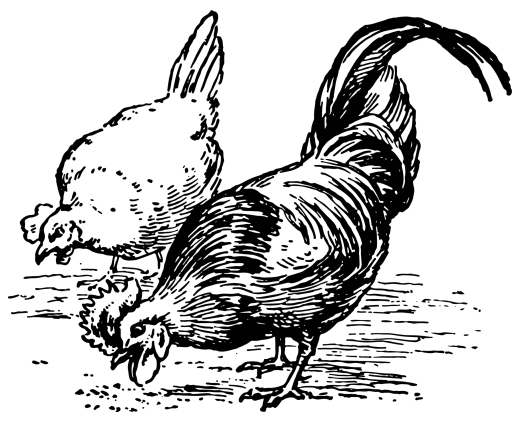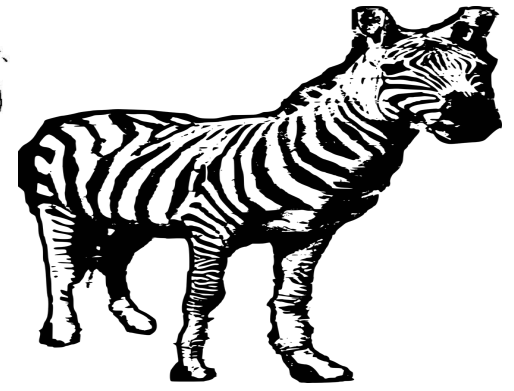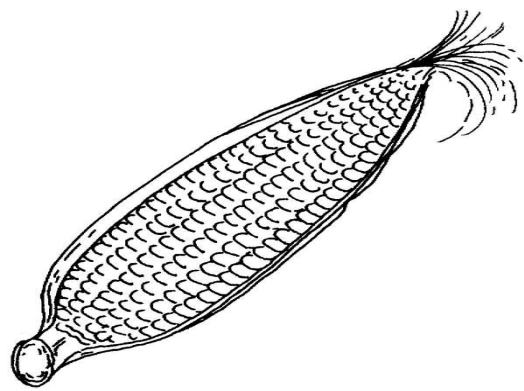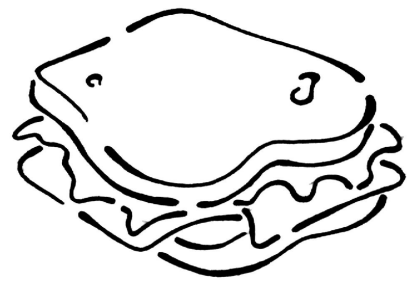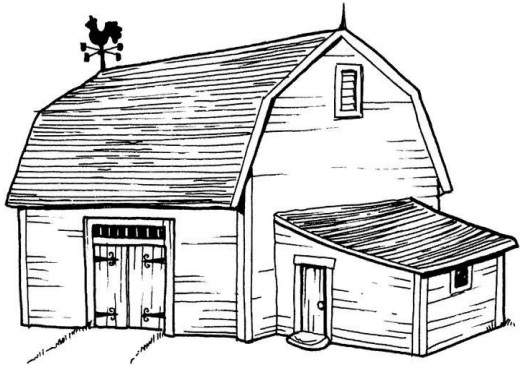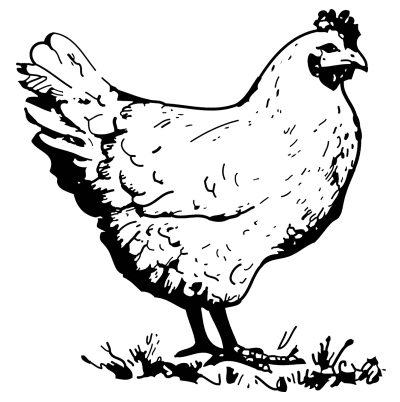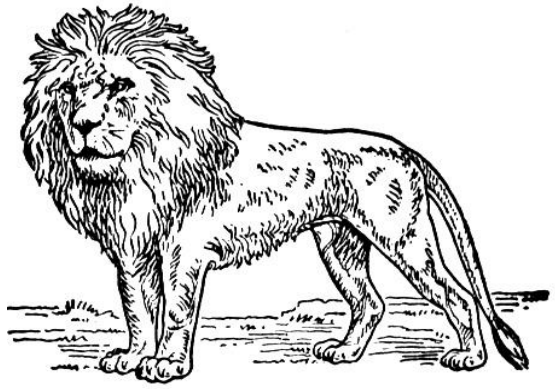
All living things need food, water and shelter to survive. Each animal does it differently, but they depend on the same things!

Draw your favorite predator below in its natural habitat. Include everything it needs to survive.

Now draw your favorite domesticated animal and where it lives. Include what it needs to survive.

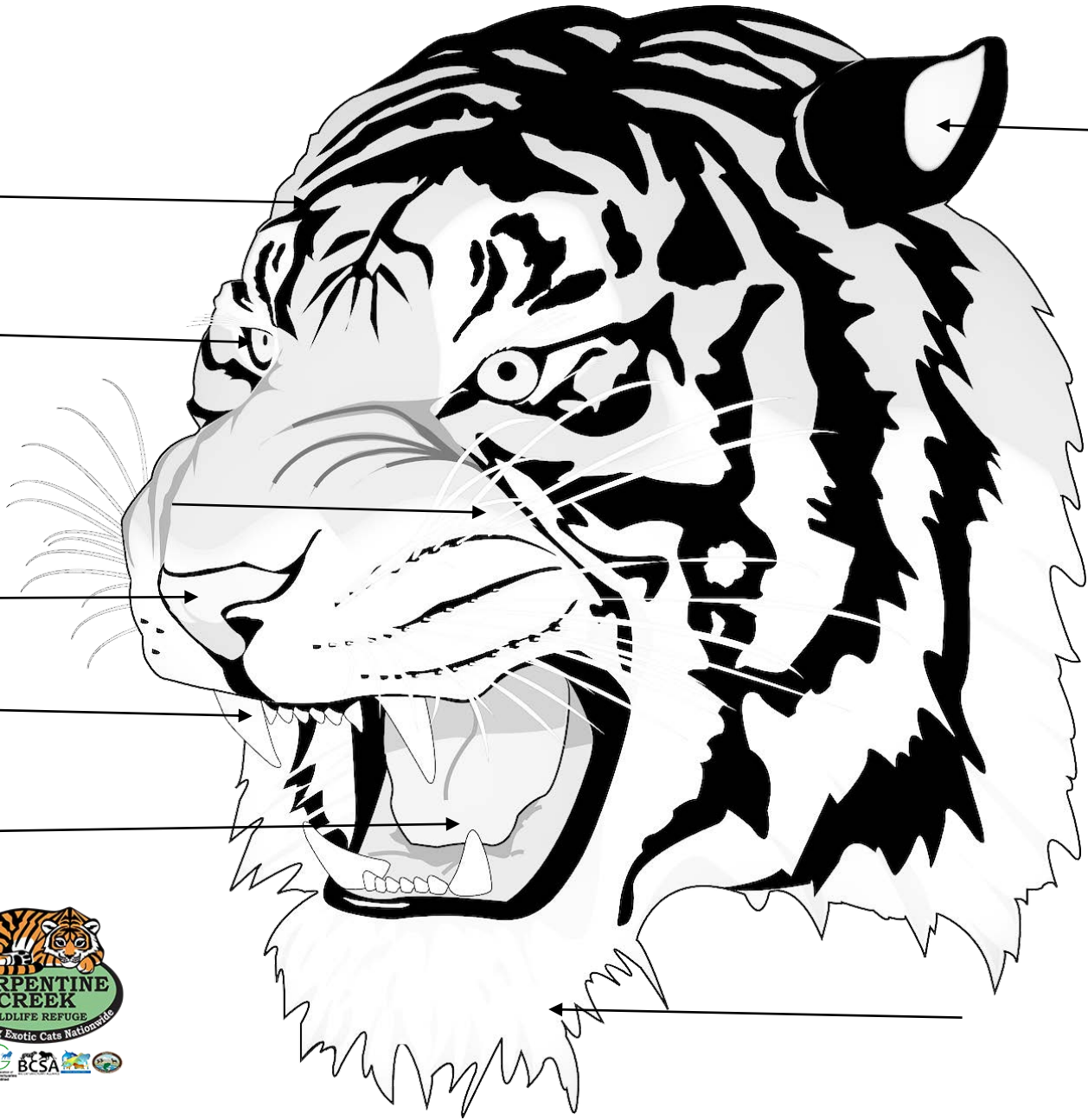Draw a circle around animals that are tame, draw an X on animals that are wild.
Which ones make good pets?

Circle where you think a Tiger should live. Put an X where they should not live.

To be happy, wild animals need: Space, food, water, shelter, and freedom.

TURPENTINE CREEK WILDLIFE REFUGE
Rescuing Exotic Cats Nationwide

Eyes: Tigers have very good eye sight, and use their eyes to hunt and find food.

Ears: The spots on the back of their ears look like eyes, so other predators do not sneak up on them.

Tongue: Their tongues feel like sand paper, and help the big cat eat its food by removing fur.

Whiskers: They are very sensitive, and allow cats to feel how big the space around them is.

Nose: Tigers do not use their nose to smell for food, but to communicate with other animals in the wild.

Stripes: Used for camouflage, or helping the tiger blend in with its surroundings, it makes them look smaller.

Fur: Mammals have fur to keep them warm, and also protect them from being hurt.

Teeth: Tigers use their teeth to kill their food, and can feel the heart stop beating through their teeth!
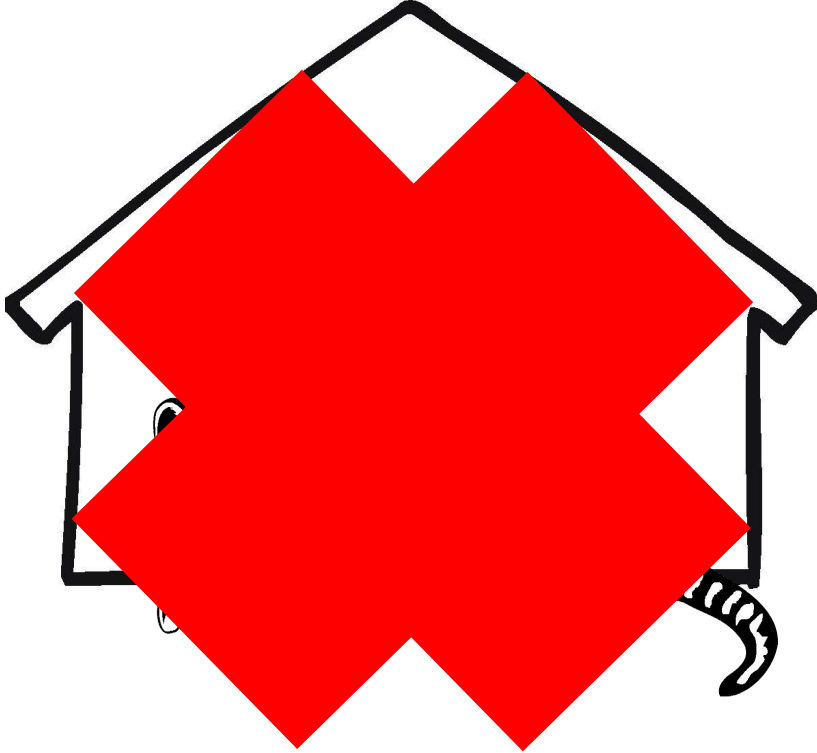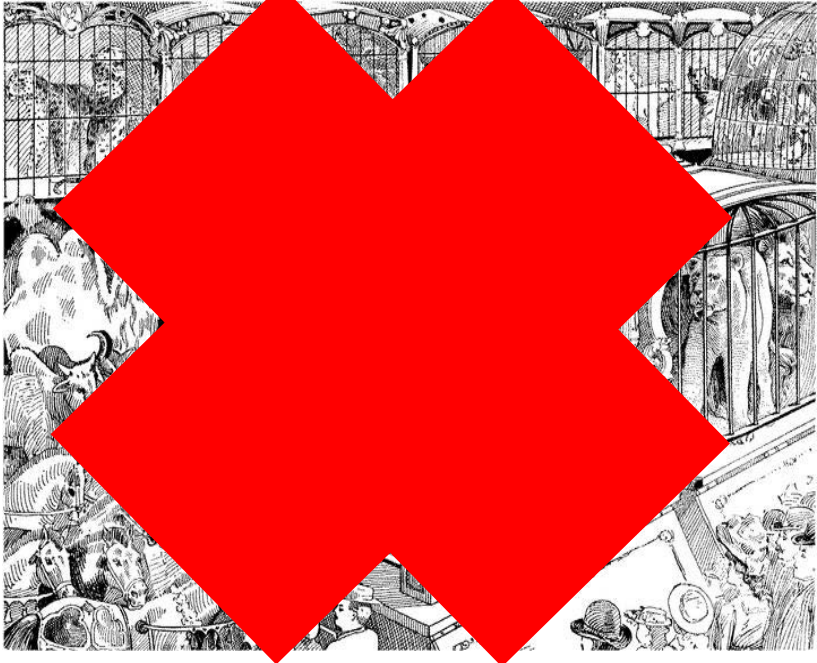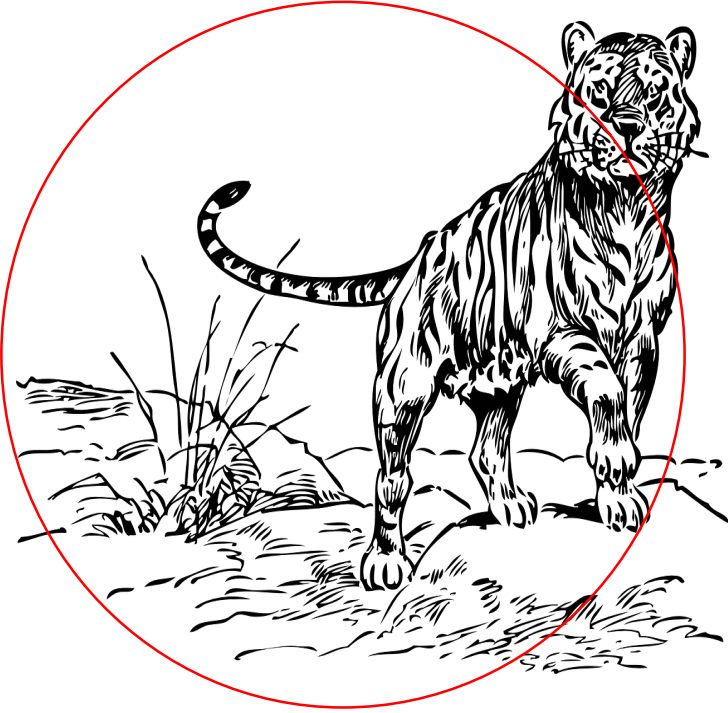
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Which ones make good pets? **Teacher Key**
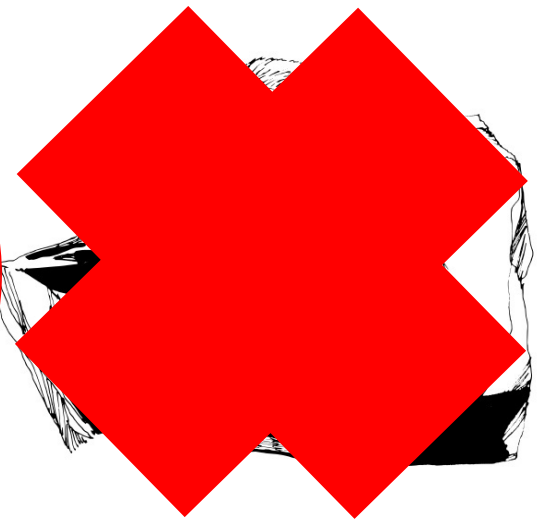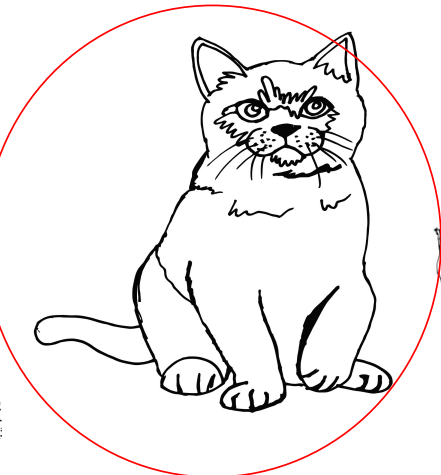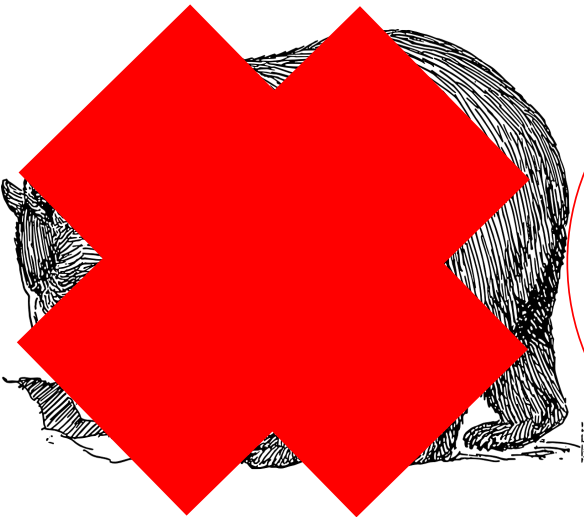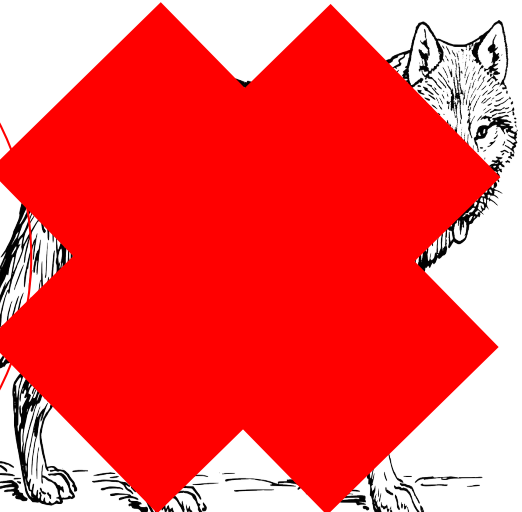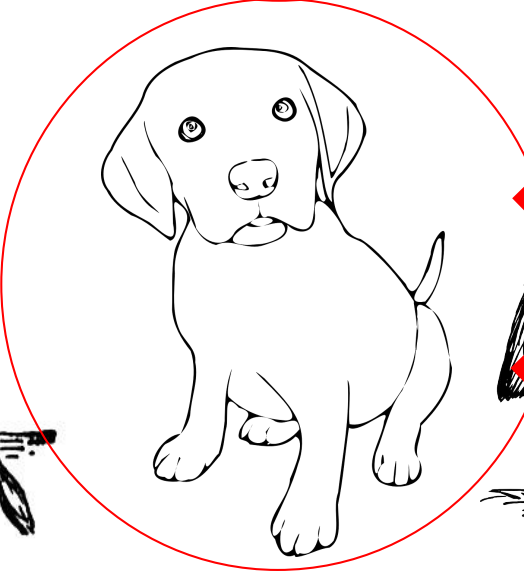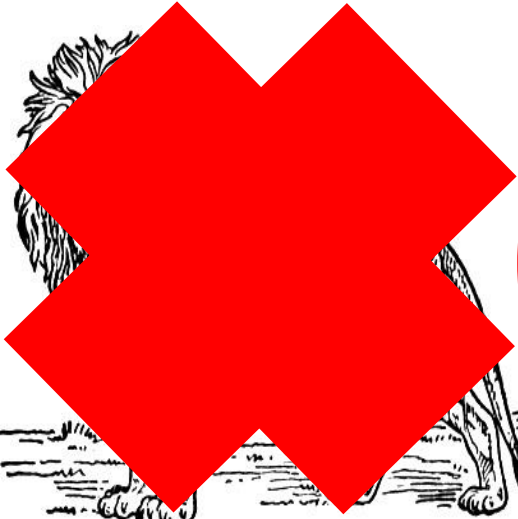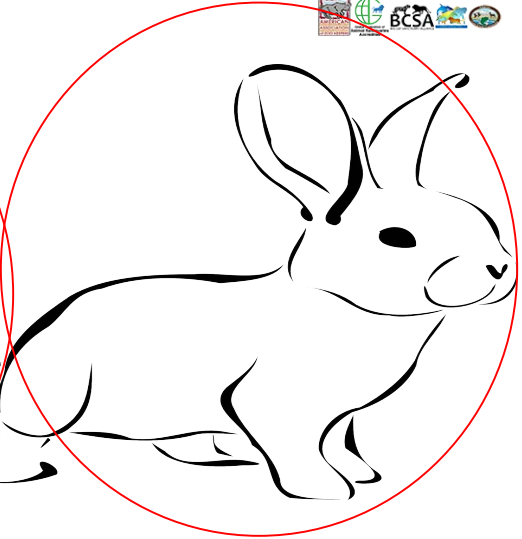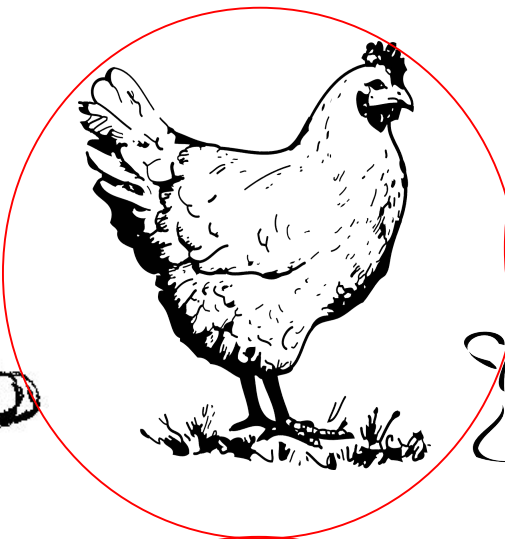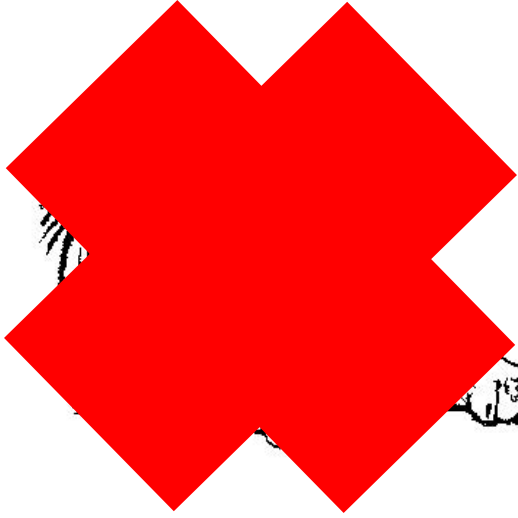
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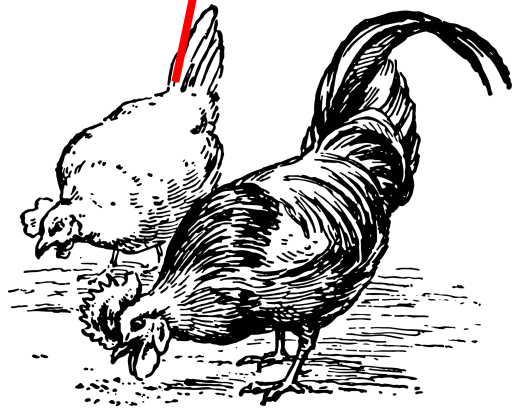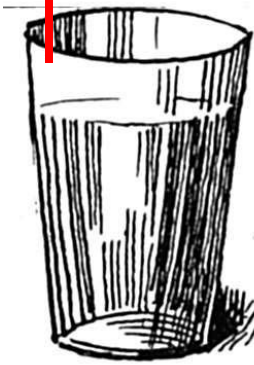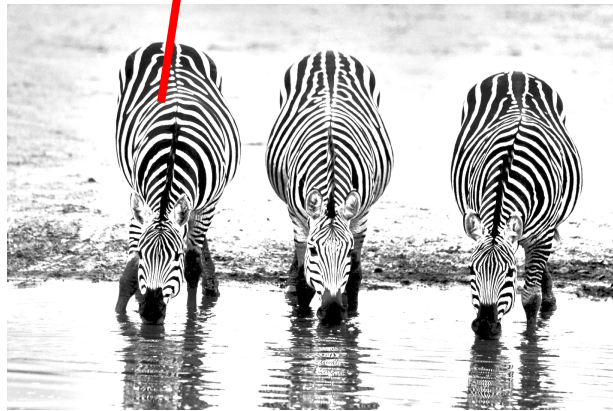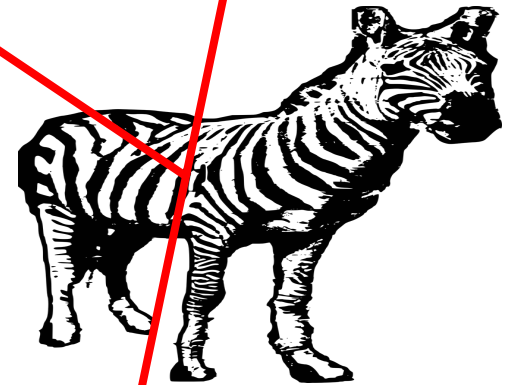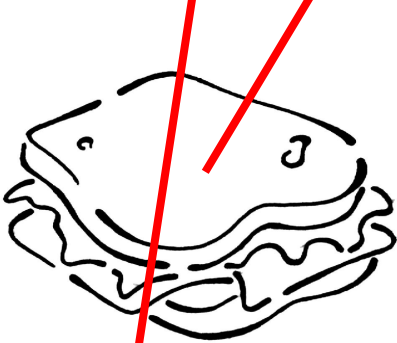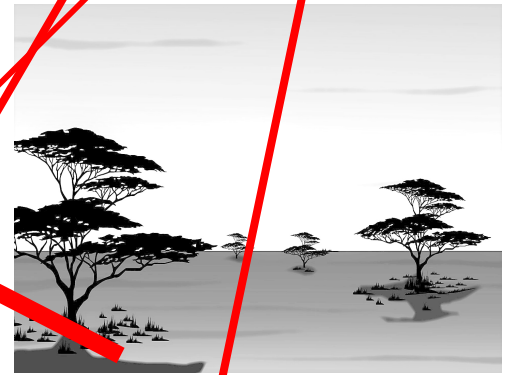Circle where you think a Tiger should live. Put an X where they should not live.

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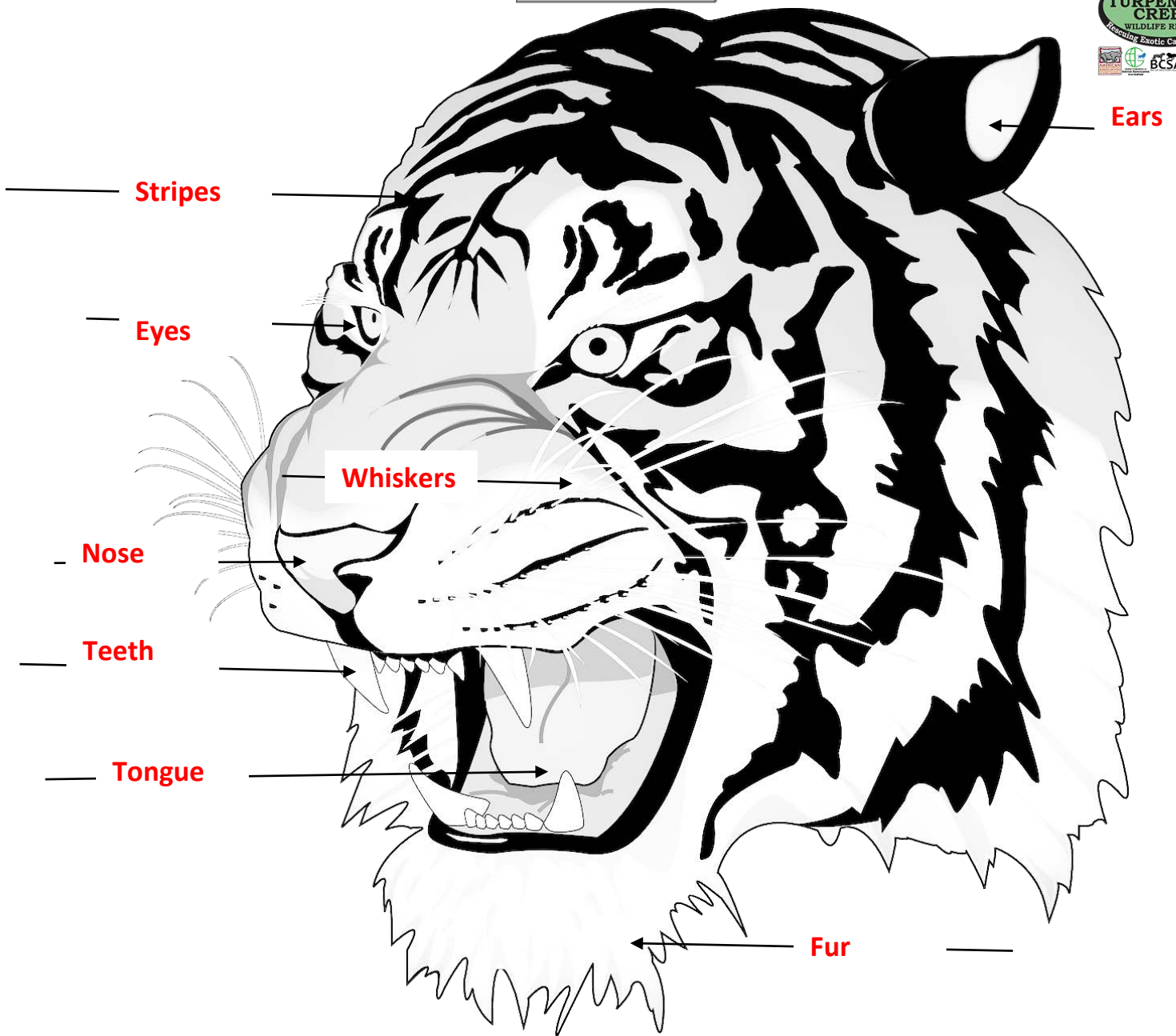Rescuing Exotic Cats Nationwide

BCSA

Survival Game: Animal vs. Human
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Teacher Key

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