

Black Footed Ferret Interview

1. **Content Area:** Science
2. **Grade Band:** 4-7
3. **State Standard:** Life Science - Students know and understand the characteristics and structure of living things, the processes of life, and how living things interact with each other and their environment
4. **Learning Objective:** Students will compare the life of a black footed ferret in captivity to its life in the wild.
5. **Description of Activity:** You are interviewing a black footed ferret on their first day being released from captivity.
6. **Duration:** 60 minutes
7. **Location:** Classroom, library, and Refuge.
8. **Activity Preparation:** Students will watch the video and research the history black ferret conservation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zqruCkAroyU>. They can also access resources from the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, either before, during or after their field trip.
9. **Materials Needed:** Computer with projection system; access to computers or library.
10. **Step-by-Step Instructions:**
 - A. Teacher will split the class into pairs.
 - B. Students will research various aspects of the life of the black footed ferret in captivity and in the wild.
 - C. As students conduct interviews, one student can pretend to be a member of the press, interviewing a black footed ferret on the first day they are released into the wild. (It is a very exclusive interview since ferrets are shy of the press.)
 - D. The other student will respond to the interviewer's questions in the role of the ferret.
 - E. Encourage students to be creative and have fun with both their questions and answers, but to base their interview on facts gleaned from their research.
 - F. Sample Questions:
 - How have you prepared for your new habitat?
 - Where are you planning to live?
 - Which ranger did you like the most in captivity and why?
 - How will you protect yourself from predators?
 - What will you eat and how are you planning to find food?
 - What are you most excited to do with your newfound freedom?