

Species at Risk: A look at how AR/VR can impact empathy for a threatened species

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Student Engagement... Old School styles

Just recently the last of a Caribou herd disappeared from the Kootenays, as the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources officials relocated the last known cow to Caribou pens located outside of Revelstoke.

I read this news article to my students, to hopefully initiate the empathy phase. We also watched a video discussing the Maternity Pens that the Revelstoke Caribou Rearing in the Wild published (<http://rcrw.ca/>).

There was lots of discussion about the project and the future of the caribou from the Selkirk and Purcell. Lots of interest. The news article/video worked as a terrific engagement tool.

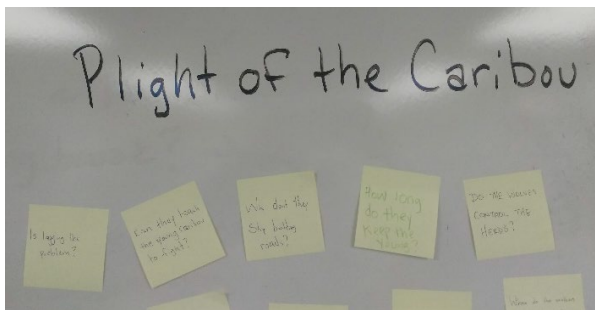


The last known caribou in the South Selkirks has been relocated to Revelstoke, along with two others from the Purcell herd. File photo

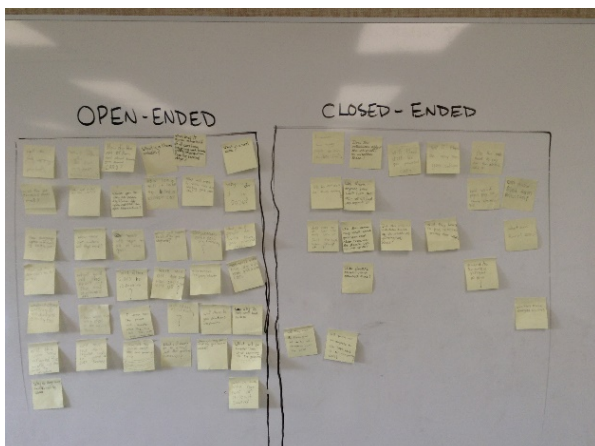
Caribou herd disappears from Kootenays after last cow relocated

One cow from the South Selkirk herd and two from the Purcells were moved this week

Inquiry Process begins



After some discussion on the topic of the Caribou in our valley, it was time to start the inquiry. I developed a Question Focus, and put the statement on the board. "Plight of the Caribou". It took off! 82 post it notes littered the board within minutes, and almost all of them were fantastic driving questions.



We proceeded to prioritize and reorganize the questions. Through this process, the students began to realize that there were questions that needed to be answered, before they could move on to the question they really wanted to pursue in an inquiry project.

I did not expect the students to engage so quickly with the topic.

It is my intent to introduce to my students, the idea of how A/R or V/R can be used in educating others on the species. I am looking forward to seeing where they go with the introduction of technology to a wilderness topic.