

# A Closer Look at Whooping Cranes



Whooping Crane Education in  
Wisconsin and Eastern North  
America



## Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership Founding Members:

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
International Crane Foundation  
Operation Migration  
U.S.G.S. – Patuxent Research Center  
U.S.G.S. – National Wildlife Health Center  
International Whooping Crane Recovery Team  
Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin  
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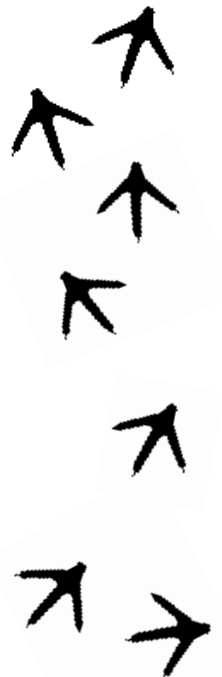
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# A Closer Look at Whooping Cranes



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# Introduction

Dear Educator,

Thank you for your interest in whooping crane education! *A Closer Look at Whooping Cranes* was developed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership. This program provides information about whooping crane ecology and biology, details the story of the whooping crane's decline and reintroduction, and offers hands-on activities for classroom teachers and non-formal educators to share with students. Financial support was provided in part from a generous donation by Margaret Van Alstyne and a grant from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board.

The crane trunk and activity guide were developed for students in grades 4-8, but the activities can be adapted for students school-age through adult. In addition, you may choose to use the trunk materials with other learning activities from your own curriculum or other programs like Project WILD, Project WET, and Project Learning Tree. The resource list included in Appendix 4 provides information about these other programs.

Before using the whooping crane trunk, please read and sign the "Crane Trunk User Agreement" form. Be sure to encourage your students to use care when handling any of the objects, and replace all materials in the trunk when you are through using it.

To help you become familiar with the teaching tools found in the trunk, refer to the *Trunk Manual*. The manual provides information on each item in the trunk and contains background information on whooping cranes and current reintroduction efforts. Feel free to photocopy any pages from the manual for use at a later time.

Please return the crane trunk by the date stated on the "User Agreement" form. We would also appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to complete and return the enclosed evaluation form. The feedback we receive from you will help us improve our educational efforts.

Enjoy these *A Closer Look at Whooping Cranes* materials, and don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

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# How to Use This Guide



*A Closer Look at Whooping Cranes* is comprised of three interrelated parts: 1) the *Crane Trunk Manual*, 2) the *Activity Guide*, and 3) the *Wisconsin Whooping Crane Management Plan*, a separate publication. Each serves as a different resource for the educator, and all three should be shared with students.

- 1) ***Wisconsin Whooping Crane Management Plan*** – Published in December 2006, this document serves as a guidance tool for restoring the Eastern Migratory Population of whooping cranes. The *Management Plan* serves as a reference to be used with the *Activity Guide*. Each activity in the *Activity Guide* includes a “Link to the Plan” which references one or many sections of the *Management Plan*. The *Management Plan* can and should serve as a resource for both the educator and the students. The *Wisconsin Whooping Crane Management Plan* can be found on the Wisconsin DNR’s website at:  
<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/birds/wcrane/wcraneplan.htm>
- 2) ***A Closer Look at Whooping Cranes Trunk Manual*** – This manual provides background information on the whooping crane reintroduction project and a list of items found in the crane trunk. Educators should read the *Trunk Manual* before presenting activities in the *Activity Guide* to students.
- 3) ***A Closer Look at Whooping Cranes Activity Guide*** – The *Activity Guide* contains thirteen activities to educate students about whooping cranes in an experiential manner using environmental education, science, social studies, English, and art. Every activity meets several of Wisconsin’s model academic standards and a wide variety of teaching objectives. Each activity contains background information for the educator, references to relevant sections of the *Wisconsin Whooping Crane Management Plan*, procedural instructions for completing the activity, and extensions for further enriching your students’ learning. Activities can be completed sequentially or as independent units. It also lists additional educational resources.

We appreciate your interest in the whooping crane project and are thrilled that you have decided to include *A Closer Look at Whooping Cranes* in your curriculum. It is with your support that knowledge of whooping cranes continues to increase, resulting in even greater successes in restoration efforts.

*Enjoy A Closer Look at Whooping Cranes !*