Wildlife Forensics Session

Why do people smuggle wildlife and how can it be stopped?

Year 7-9

**Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of the session:

- **All pupils** will understand what the illegal wildlife trade is and how it contributes to species extinction
- **Most pupils** will understand the different techniques used by scientists and police and how these techniques allow them to collect evidence
- **Some pupils** will start to understand how their seemingly unconnected actions can contribute to the illegal wildlife trade, and how changes in their actions can help wildlife

**Session Outline:**

The session starts with a look at what the wildlife trade is focusing on; the pet trade, the ivory trade, traditional medicine trade, the souvenir trade and hunting. The students will then be shown some real life examples of the lengths people will go to in order to smuggle wildlife. The session will also cover some of the methods used by scientists and police to gather evidence to prosecute the smugglers. The students will then have the chance to rotate around several stations in small groups. These stations ask the students to investigate a particular crime to provide evidence to allow a possible prosecution. The students will also be able to see and use real wildlife items which have been confiscated by the police and donated to Colchester Zoo.

Please note, no live animals are used in this session.