

ENDANGERED SPECIES

PROTECTING VULNERABLE CREATURES

WHAT DOES ENDANGERED MEAN?

An endangered species is a species that will very likely become extinct in the near future. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List provides the global conservation status of many species. Multiple factors are considered when assessing the status of a species. Over 50% of the world's species are estimated to be at risk for extinction.

Embark on this quest to learn about endangered species and what you can do to help.

DISCOVER

Complete these three activities:

- Identify the factors that are considered when deciding the status of a species.
- Investigate the various IUCN Red List status categories and what they mean.
- Create a list of critically endangered species in your country and discover ways that you and your community can help improve the chances of survival for these species.

CONNECT

Required: Visit <https://www.fws.gov/endangered/> to locate endangered species in your state.

Complete at least two of these activities:

- Identify the most significant threat to a specific endangered species. Make an inference about what might have led to this and the potential long-term impact on the species if nothing is done.
- Learn about the Endangered Species Act and what various organizations are doing in order to support this act. Connect with one of these organizations to see how an everyday citizen can make a difference.
- Interview a scientist, biologist, environmental activist, or environmental specialist to discover more about protecting endangered species and what research or actions they are doing to protect these vulnerable species.

ACT

Required: Create a short TikTok or YouTube video identifying a threat to an endangered species that you feel strongly about and explain why it should be everyone's problem. Share it on social media.

Choose and complete one of these activities:

- Research young environmentalists who have fought to increase the chances of survival for an endangered species in some way. Find their email or physical address and ask them how they became inspired to pursue advocacy on a larger scale.
- Research and find an organization striving to change outcomes for endangered species that interest you. Consider JaneGoodall.org or WWF.org.
- Organize a community recycling project to reduce the environmental waste in your area that contributes to pollution.
- Look up your state Senator or Representative's stance on the Endangered Species Act. Call or write to them and explain why they should help you improve protection for vulnerable species in a certain area and what actions they can take.

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