

Endangered Species - The Bison



The bison is a large animal of the cattle family. Its head and humped shoulders are covered in long, shaggy hair.

There are two types of bison, the American and the European. There used to be great herds of bison in North America. The Indians were the first people to hunt them. When Europeans went to America they killed great numbers of bison until, by 1889, there were only about 500 left. Today, there are no bison left living in the wild in America and Europe. Those that survive all live in wildlife reserves and zoos.

Answer these questions in sentences.

1. Describe the bison.
2. What 2 kinds of bison are there?
3. Who were the first to hunt bison?
4. Why are there only a few bison remaining?
5. Why do the existing bison live?
6. Draw a bison.
7. Research what is being done to protect the remaining bison.

Endangered Species - The Chimpanzee



Chimpanzees are the most human-looking of all the apes. Fully grown, they are about 1.3 metres tall and are able to walk upright, although they often use their hands to help push themselves along the ground. Chimpanzees come from the jungles of Africa. They live in family groups and are very fond of their young and take good care of them. They are playful and intelligent animals. Tame chimpanzees have been taught to behave like humans in many ways. They can even learn to talk in simple sign language. The chimpanzee is an endangered species.

Answer these questions in sentences.

1. How do chimpanzees move around?
2. What kind of animal are chimpanzees?
3. Where can they be found?
4. How do we know that chimpanzees are intelligent?
5. In what way is their family life similar to that of a human?
6. Draw a chimpanzee.
7. Research the reasons for chimpanzees being an endangered species and how they are being protected.

Endangered Species - The seal and Sea Lion



Seal



Sea Lion

Seals and sea lions are large sea mammals. Many of them live in icy waters. They spend most of their time in the sea, but sometimes come ashore to lie in the sun. They also have their young, called pups, on land. Seals have streamlined bodies and legs shaped like flippers for swimming. They also have a thick layer of fat, or blubber, under their skin to protect them from the cold. Seals and sea lions eat fish and other sea creatures.

Sea lions have small ears outside their heads and have fur all over their bodies. The males often have a shaggy mane. The Californian sea lion is the smallest and is often seen in circuses and zoos. The Stellar Sea Lion is an endangered species.

Answer these questions in sentences.

1. What kind of animals are seals?
2. What are young seals called and where are they born?
3. What characteristics help seals move in the water?
4. How are they protected from the cold, icy waters?
5. What do they eat?
6. Describe what a sea lion looks like.
7. Where are sea lions often found?
8. What species of sea lion is endangered?
9. Draw a sea lion.
10. Research the reasons for the sea lion being an endangered species and how it is protected.

Endangered Species - The Leopard



Leopards are large, wild cats not much smaller than lions. They live in Africa and Southern Asia. Most leopards are spotted like jaguars, but some are nearly black. These are called Panthers.

Leopards are very fierce, strong and agile hunters. They catch and eat antelopes, goats, dogs and sometimes people. They often hunt from trees, lying in wait on a branch. If they cannot eat all of their catch at once, they haul the carcass high up into a tree. This is to stop lazier hunters such as lions or hyenas from stealing it.

The clouded leopard and snow leopard are endangered species.

Answer these questions in sentences.

1. What are 'black leopards' called?
2. Where can leopards be found?
3. What do leopards hunt and eat?
4. What do they do if they can't finish all of their food?
5. Why do they do this?
6. Which leopards are in danger of extinction?
7. Draw a leopard.
8. Research how leopards are being protected from extinction.

Endangered Species - The Tiger



Tigers are the biggest members of the cat family. They live in the forests of Asia and Indonesia, and hunt deer or large cattle. Tigers usually lie still during the day and hunt alone by night. They are very strong. One tiger can pull a dead buffalo that is so heavy a group of people would find it difficult to move.

Until the 1800s, thousands of tigers roamed through the forests of Asia. Then men began to shoot them, and as a result they are now very rare. The Bengal tiger from Asia is an endangered species.

Answer these questions in sentences.

1. Which family does the tiger belong to?
2. Where do tigers live?
3. What do they feed on?
4. Describe the strength of the tiger.
5. Why are tigers now very rare?
6. What kind of tiger faces extinction?
7. Draw a tiger.
8. Research how tigers are being protected from extinction.

Endangered Species - The Rhinoceros

Sometimes described as a 'tank on legs', the rhinoceros is one of the largest and strongest of all land animals. A full grown male can weigh as much as 3.5 tonnes.



This massive beast has a tough leathery skin and sprouts one or two horns on its snout. These horns are made of compressed hair, the same substance as your fingernails. These horns may grow as long as 127 cm.

The rhinoceros lives in Africa and in south-eastern Asia. There it feeds on leafy twigs, shrubs and grasses.

Although an adult rhino has no natural enemies, it is so widely hunted for its horns that it has become an endangered species. When ground into a powder, rhino horn is believed to be a powerful medicine. Some people claim it can be used to detect poisoned wine. None of these beliefs are true.

Answer these questions in sentences.

1. What is the rhinoceros sometimes described as?
2. Describe the strength and weight of a fully-grown male.
3. What special features do rhinos have?
4. Where does the rhinoceros live?
5. What do they feed on?
6. Why have they become an endangered species?
7. What do people use rhino horn for?
8. Draw a rhinoceros.
9. Research ways in which man is protecting the rhino.

Endangered Species - The Jaguar

No other American wild cat is as heavy or perhaps as dangerous as the jaguar. From nose to tail a jaguar is longer than a man, and may be nearly twice his weight. The jaguar is yellow with black spots. The leopard also has spots, but many of the jaguar's spots are in rings. Jaguars live in the hot, wet forests of Central America and South America. They leap from trees onto wild pigs and deer. They also catch turtles, fish and alligators. The jaguar is in danger of extinction because it's rainforest home is being destroyed.



Answer these questions in sentences.

1. Where do jaguars live?
2. What do they look like?
3. Why is the jaguar feared?
4. How do jaguars catch their prey?
5. What do they feed on?
6. Why are jaguars facing extinction?
7. Draw a jaguar.
8. Research how jaguars are being protected from extinction by man.

Endangered Species - The Gorilla



Gorillas are the largest of the apes. A big male may be as tall as a man. Gorillas live in family groups in the warm forests of Central Africa. They eat fruit, roots, tree bark and leaves. Every night they make beds of twigs in the low branches of trees. Gorillas are in danger of becoming extinct.

Answer these questions in sentences.

1. Where are gorillas found?
2. What do gorillas look like?
3. What do they eat?
4. Where do gorillas sleep?
5. To which family do gorillas belong?
6. Draw a gorilla.
7. Research why gorillas are in danger of extinction and how we can protect them.

Endangered Species - The Elephant



African Elephant



Asian Elephant

Elephants are the largest living land mammals. A big bull (male) elephant may stand twice as high as a man and weigh as much as seven family cars. An elephant has larger ears, thicker legs, a longer nose and longer teeth than any other creature. It's skin is nearly as thick as the heel of a man's shoe.

Baby elephants stand no taller than big dogs. Elephants are fully grown after 20 years. They live almost as long as people.

Indian elephants can be trained to move heavy loads. African elephants are harder to tame. Many thousands have been killed just for the ivory of their tusks. Today, most are protected by law.

Answer these questions in sentences.

1. What is the male elephant called?
2. Describe the size of an elephant.
3. Describe what an elephant looks like.
4. When do elephants become fully grown?
5. Name 2 different kinds of elephant.
6. Why are elephants in danger of extinction?
7. Research what has been done to prevent the extinction of elephants?
8. Draw an elephant.

Endangered Species - The Panda



There are two kinds of panda. Both live in the forests of Asia. The giant panda looks like a black and white bear. It lives in bamboo forests in China. The red panda is not much larger than a cat. It has a bushy tail and reddish fur. Both types of panda eat plants. Their nearest relatives are the raccoons of North and South America. The giant panda from Asia is an endangered animal.

Answer these questions in sentences.

1. What 2 kinds of panda are there?
2. What do they look like?
3. Who are their nearest relatives?
4. What does the giant panda eat?
5. What panda is in danger of extinction?
6. Draw a giant panda.
7. Research the reasons for the endangerment of pandas and how we can protect them.

Endangered Species - The Dolphin and Porpoise



Dolphins are small whales. Although they never leave the sea, they are mammals. They breathe air and are warm blooded. They have sharp teeth and their heads end in beak like mouths. Porpoises, close relatives of the dolphin, have no beak and the front of the head is rounded. Because the dolphin is a friendly creature, it has been well-known since ancient times. Dolphins are intelligent and communicate with each other by means of whistles and clicks. Tame dolphins can learn many tricks.

Answer these questions in sentences.

1. What kind of animals are dolphins?
2. What characteristics show that they are mammals?
3. What is the difference between a dolphin and a porpoise?
4. How do dolphins communicate with each other?
5. How do we know dolphins are intelligent?
6. Draw a dolphin.
7. Research the reasons for dolphins being endangered and give examples of how we can protect them.

Endangered Species - The Turtle and Terrapin

Some people give the name 'turtle' to all shelled reptiles, including tortoises. But generally, the name is just used for those that live in water. The shells of turtles are similar to those of tortoises. These are both made of bony 'plates' that are covered by large horny scales. Small turtles that live in fresh water are called Terrapins.



Marine, or sea, turtles spend most of their lives in warm seas. They swim great distances to find food, and many of them have webbed toes, or flipper-like legs to help them swim well. Turtles go ashore to lay their eggs. They usually bury their eggs in sand, or hide them among weeds. The baby turtles hatch out on their own. When they have hatched they dig themselves out of their nest and head for the sea.

There are several kinds of marine turtle. The largest kind is called the leatherback turtle. It can weigh over 725 kg and be up to 1.8 metres long. The green turtle is used for turtle soup and its eggs are eaten in Asian countries. It is in danger of extinction. The hawksbill turtle almost became extinct. Its shell was used to make 'tortoiseshell' ornaments and jewellery.

Answer these questions in sentences.

1. Describe the shell of a turtle.
2. What is the difference between a turtle and a terrapin?
3. What helps a turtle to move in the water?
4. Where do turtles lay their eggs and what happens when they hatch?
5. Why is the green turtle in danger of becoming extinct?
6. How was the hawksbill turtle in danger of extinction?
7. Draw a turtle.
8. Research ways to protect turtles from extinction.

Endangered Species - The Orang-utan



This big, re-haired ape comes from the islands of Borneo and Sumatra in South-east Asia. Its name comes from Malay words meaning 'man of the woods'. A male is as heavy as a man, but not as tall. Orang-utans use their long arms to swing through the branches of trees as they hunt for fruit and leaves to eat. Each night they make a nest high up in the trees. A leafy roof helps to keep rain out.

Man is the orang-utan's main enemy. Hunters sometimes catch the babies and sell them to zoos. Orang-utans are already scarce. They could become extinct.



Answer these questions in sentences.

1. Where does the orang-utan come from?
2. What is the meaning of the word orang-utan?
3. Describe what an orang-utan looks like and what it eats.
4. Where do they sleep?
5. Why are orang-utans in danger of extinction?
6. Research what we can do to protect them.
7. Draw an orang-utan.

Endangered Species - The Great White Shark

The Great White is a large species of shark that can grow up to 7 metres long. The Great White Shark's skeleton is made from a light substance called cartilage, and not heavier bone.

The Great White Shark is at the top of the food chain, preying on a variety of marine animals such as seals dolphins and whales. Sharks have a highly developed sense of smell that they use to detect their prey. Great White Sharks swim at prey such as a seal, ramming it at full speed and biting in the same motion, stunning and injuring the prey. They then wait until the prey has bled to death before they feed, biting off chunks and swallowing them whole. A big meal can last the shark up to 2 months.



Great White Sharks live in all warm coastal waters, for example, Australia, Hawaii and Japan, and have been known to occasionally make dives into the deep water of open oceans. They are solitary creatures.

Unlike many other species of shark, the Great White gives birth to live pups, which have hatched from eggs inside the mother.

This shark is notorious for attacking swimmers and surfers, although this only happens around 3 times a year.



The Great White Shark is an endangered species.

Answer these questions in sentences:

1. Where are Great White Sharks found?
2. Describe this shark' skeleton. Why do you think it is made of a light material?
3. How does the Great White Shark find food?
4. What does it prey on?
5. How does it kill it's food?
6. Find out why this species in endangered. How can we help to protect the Great White Shark?
7. Draw a picture of the Great White Shark.