

Lesson 7

Endangered Species

Many animals and plants need to be protected or they will not be able to survive. These animals and plants are referred to as endangered species. Endangered species can become extinct if action is not taken to see that they are protected. Blue whales, rhinoceroses, tigers, and many other animals are considered to be endangered species.

Animals can become endangered for many reasons. Changes in weather, volcanic activity, and changes in the environment can all affect the animals and plants around us. Changes that humans have made by clearing land to build houses make it difficult for many animals to survive. If their natural habitat is demolished, animals may have difficulty finding sources of food or an environment in which they can live. Elephants and other endangered animals are often killed by hunters.



Pollution in our lakes, streams, and oceans has been hazardous to many animals. Hunting animals for their meat has reduced the size of many animal populations. The use of pesticides has made it difficult for many animals to survive in their natural habitats.

Conservation programs have been started to protect animals and plants that are endangered. Efforts are now being made to preserve many forests and other land areas so that animals can remain in their natural living environment. Laws making it illegal to hunt endangered animals are also being enforced.

Answering Questions

Instructions: Answer each of the questions below.



1. Why is it hard for many animal species to survive in the world today?

2. Think of some things that might be hazardous to elephants and other animals that live in the forest.

3. Think of some things that might be hazardous to animals that live in water.

Defining and Using Words

Instructions: Define each word and use it in a sentence.

1. **survive**

definition: _____

sentence: _____

2. **endangered**

definition: _____

sentence: _____

3. **extinct**

definition: _____

sentence: _____

4. **habitat**

definition: _____

sentence: _____

5. **demolished**

definition: _____

sentence: _____

6. **pollution**

definition: _____

sentence: _____

7. **hazardous**

definition: _____

sentence: _____

8. **conservation**

definition: _____

sentence: _____

9. **preserve**

definition: _____

sentence: _____

10. **enforced**

definition: _____

sentence: _____

Student: _____ Date: _____

Activity 7C

Select the Word

Instructions: Write the word from the list below that fits best in each sentence. Use each word only once.

conservation

endangered

habitat

preserve

pollution

demolished

enforced

survive

hazardous

extinct

1. Some animals will not survive if their _____ is destroyed.
2. Pesticides can be very _____.
3. The dinosaurs have all become _____.
4. Without food, no animal can _____.
5. The habitats of endangered animals should not be _____.
6. It is important for laws to be _____.
7. Animals that are dying in their living environment are considered _____.
8. _____ programs help protect animals.
9. _____ can be harmful to people and animals.
10. We need to _____ the environment so that animals and plants can survive.