



## Animals From Around the World

Did you know that there are about 9,900 different kinds of birds? Did you know that about 1,200 of those kinds of birds are in danger of extinction? That's about 12% of all birds. What does extinct mean? What does species mean? Let's find out.

### Vocabulary

endangered species = 絶滅危惧種

extinct animal = 絶滅した動物

pollution = 汚染

population = 人口

animal population = 動物集団

mammal = 哺乳類

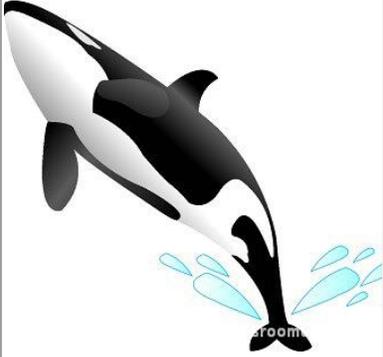
An endangered species is a group (**population**) of plants or animals that is in danger of becoming **extinct**. When a species is extinct, it is gone forever.

Reasons why some animal species are disappearing:

1. People are killing the animals for food or for money.
2. Other animals that hunt it have grown in number.
3. Climate change and global warming destroy the places it lives.
4. Pollution is killing the animal and destroying the places it lives.

## Activity 1 – Endangered Animals Around the World

### Practice:

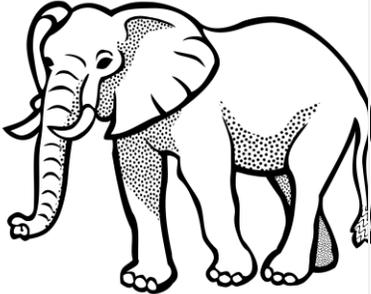
<i>What is it?</i>		It's an Orca.
<i>Where do Orcas live?</i>		They live in all the world's oceans.
<i>What do Orcas eat?</i>		They eat fish, squid, birds and marine mammals.
<i>How long do Orcas live?</i>		They live 30 – 50 years.
<i>How big are they?</i>		They range from 5 to 8 meters long.
<i>Why are Orcas in danger of becoming extinct?</i>		Pollution in the ocean is killing many Orcas.

**Orcas** (also called *killer whales*) are the largest dolphins in the world. They are called 'whales' because of their size. Males typically range from 6 to 8 meters long and weigh in excess of 6 tons. Females are smaller, generally ranging from 5 to 7 meters and weighing about 3 to 4 tons. Orcas have mostly black skin with white patches. They are found in all the world's oceans, from the cold of the Arctic to the tropical seas. They are really easy to identify because of their white and black coloring.

Orcas feed on fish, squid, birds, and marine mammals. In the wild, orcas live from 30 – 50 years. However, pollution and chemical waste make orcas more likely to get diseases so the Orca population is getting smaller.

## Activity 2 – Endangered Animals Around the World

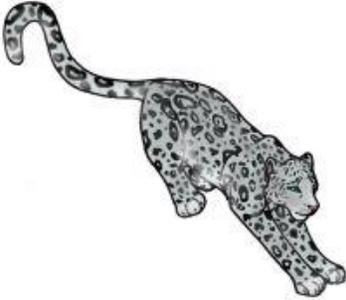
Now read the following and ask a classmate questions about the animals.

What is it?		_____
Where do _____ live?		_____
What do _____ eat?		_____
How long do _____ live?		_____
How big are they?		_____
Why are they in danger of becoming extinct?		_____

Elephants are the largest living land mammals. They are native to Africa and South Asia; however, African Elephants and Asian Elephants are two different species. African Elephants are the larger of the two species and are 2.5 to 4 meters from shoulder to toe. They weigh from 2,300 to 6,300 kilograms. Asian elephants are 2 to 3 meters from shoulder to toe and weigh from 2,000 to 5,000 kilograms. Elephants can live for more than 50 years.

Elephants eat grass, leaves, bamboo, bark and roots. Elephants are also known to eat crops like banana and sugarcane which are grown by farmers. Adult elephants eat 300-400 pounds of food per day.

Habitat loss is one of the key threats facing elephants. Climate change is making elephants' habitat hotter and drier. This makes it more difficult for young elephants to live. Also, people kill elephants to get money for their ivory tusks. This is called **poaching** and it is illegal. However, thousands of elephants are killed every year for their tusks. In 1900, there were a few million African elephants and about 100,000 Asian elephants. Today, there are an about 500,000 African elephants and less than 40,000 wild Asian elephants.

<p><i>What is it?</i></p>		<hr/>
<p><i>Where do _____ live?</i></p>		<hr/>
<p><i>What do _____ eat?</i></p>		<hr/>
<p><i>How long do _____ live?</i></p>		<hr/>
<p><i>How big are they?</i></p>		<hr/>
<p><i>Why are they in danger of becoming extinct?</i></p>		<hr/>

Snow leopards live high in the mountains of Central Asia in countries such as Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, northern India and China. However, they have already disappeared from certain parts of Mongolia, where many used to live. They live and hunt animals for food at 3,000 meters to 6,000 meters high in mountain areas. They will eat any animals they can catch and kill.

Snow leopards are less than one meter in **height**, but can grow to just over two meters in **length**. They have been known to live for as long as 20 years. Snow leopards are disappearing fast because of global warming is melting the snow in mountain areas where they live. Illegal hunters also kill them for their valuable fur that can be used to make expensive fur coats. There are only about 3,500 to 7,000 snow leopards left in the wild, with 600 - 700 in zoos around the world.

<i>What is it?</i>		
<i>Where do _____ live?</i>		
<i>What do _____ eat?</i>		
<i>How long do _____ live?</i>		
<i>How big are they?</i>		
<i>Why are they in danger of becoming extinct?</i>		

The tiger is the largest member of the cat family. There were once nine subspecies of tigers: Bengal, Siberian, Indochinese, South Chinese, Sumatran, Malayan, Caspian, Javan and Bali. Of these, the last three are extinct, another is extinct in the wild, and the rest are endangered (see list below).

Tigers mainly eat deer, wild pigs, water buffalo and antelope. Tigers are also known to hunt sloth bears, dogs, leopards, crocodiles and pythons as well as monkeys and rabbits.

Tigers can have a height of one meter and a length between 1.5 and 3 meters not including their tail. Adult Siberian tigers weigh between 180 and 300 kilograms. They live between 10 and 15 years.

Tigers are becoming extinct because climate change and urbanization are destroying the places they live and hunt. Also, poachers kill them for their valuable fur, teeth and claws that are sold on the black market.

- Bengal tiger:** Less than 2,000
- Indochinese tiger:** 750-1,300
- Siberian tiger:** Around 450
- Sumatran tiger:** 400-500
- Malayan tiger:** 600-800
- South Chinese tiger:** Extinct in the wild
- Caspian tiger:** Extinct
- Javan tiger:** Extinct
- Bali tiger:** Extinct

### Activity 3 – Endangered Animals Around the World

Discuss the following questions with a partner.

1. Can you name three extinct animals?
2. What endangered animals do you know?
3. What animals are becoming extinct in your country?
4. Which animals, fish and plants do you think are most endangered?
5. Which endangered species would you least like to see disappear?
6. Why are so many species becoming endangered?
7. Do you think humans will ever be an endangered species?
8. What should governments do to protect endangered species?
9. How can we stop people from buying elephant ivory or animal fur?

#### Match the words to the definition:

Word	Definition
endangered	how tall an animal is
poachers	a kind of animal
height	threatened
weight	number of animals
species	a species that is gone forever
population	how many kilograms
extinct	illegal hunters

For more information about endangered animal species visit Kids' Planet:

<http://www.kidsplanet.org/factsheets/map.html>