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Endangered Species

There are about 8.7 million **species** of animals on earth but some scientists think that 40% of them might soon be gone! A species of animals is called endangered when there aren't that many of them left. If a species is endangered it means that they are in danger of becoming **extinct**.

Why Do Species Become Endangered?

Interesting Fact

There are only about 200 White Tigers left in the entire World!

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normally live in an area. These new species can harm or kill the animals and plants that live there, making them endangered. Finally, human beings have taken animals out of their natural habitats and have put them in new ones to make room for building houses, cities, etc. When these species are forced to live somewhere different, they cannot survive.

Species - A grouping of animals that can have children together.

Extinct – A species that no longer exists.

Pesticides – Chemicals that are used to kill insects that hurt crops.

Habitat – Where a plant or animal naturally lives.

Examples of Endangered Species

- Giant Panda – The number of Giant Pandas in the wild is decreasing quickly. Living in the mountainous areas of southwest China, the wild Giant Pandas population is now only 1,600. As China's population continues to grow, huge areas of forest are being destroyed to make room for new cities, removing the Giant Panda from its habitat. Recently, many groups including the World Wildlife Federation have been working hard to protect the areas where the Giant Pandas now live.



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Former Endangered Species that are Now Extinct

There are now laws that help protect endangered species. Unfortunately, before these laws were made, some endangered species became extinct. The Tasmanian tiger is one example.

The Tasmanian tiger lived in Tasmania, which is an island south of Australia. When people came to live in Tasmania, these animals soon became endangered and then became extinct. The reason for their extinction is mainly due to overhunting for the colorful skins and habitat loss. The Tasmanian tiger officially became extinct in 1936.



Poaching-The illegal hunting and killing of animals.

Reading Comprehension Questions: Answer Key

- 1) How
- 2) What is a habitat?
- 3) What
- 4) What are the reasons why the Mountain Gorilla is endangered?
- 5) How

Extension Questions:

- 6) What is something people could do to help endangered species? How would this help?
- 7) Research the
- 8) There are many

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