

## **APES Endangered Species Newsletter:**

*Due Date:*

The focus of the current unit is the *importance and value of the biodiversity on Earth*, and the consequences of the current ongoing anthropogenic mass extinction of species. There have been five mass extinctions in the history of life on Earth, and we are in the midst of the sixth, which is the result of human activities.

In this assignment, you will create a **one-page newsletter** in which you highlight the demise of **three species**. There are three human activities that have resulted in the extinction of thousands of species of flora and fauna in the recent history of life on Earth. One activity is the *destruction of the habitat*. As we have learned in previous units, all organisms have numerous needs to fulfill using the resources available in its ecosystem. If all or part of an ecosystem is destroyed the result can be many species that are no longer capable of meeting their needs for survival. **Habitat loss plays a part virtually anytime a species is threatened**

A second activity is the *introduction of exotic species*. When a non-native species is introduced into an ecosystem it may have the ability to displace one or more native species from that ecosystem. Often these alien species are more adaptable and respond better to change than the native species in the ecosystem.

The third significant human activity that results in extinction is the willful destruction of flora and fauna through the *hunting and harvesting of species*. This is the unfortunate outcome for species with parts that are desirable to humans as well as for those species that compete with or threaten the well-being of human beings.

This assignment requires some introductory research on endangered species. You will answer a series of questions about three species. The major reason <sup>1</sup>**one of the species is endangered must be overexploitation**, and for another <sup>2</sup>**the major reason must be the introduction of an exotic species**. <sup>3</sup>**The third species can be endangered for any reason**. At least one of the species must be **a plant, one must be a mammal, and one must be an amphibian**. *The following are the requirements of the assignment:*

- I. Your newsletter will have a catchy name like, *The Endangered Species Gazette*.
- II. Your newsletter will be on one side of one sheet of paper, and it will include the following information on three endangered species: (*Each species must be on the U.S. list of threatened and endangered species.*)
  - A. **The full scientific name of the species** and any **common names** for the species.
  - B. The **location and characteristics** of its natural habitat.
  - C. The **primary and all secondary causes** of its decline in population.
  - D. The **specific characteristics of the species** that has lead to it decline.

### **REMEMBER:**

- The major reason one of the species is endangered must be *overexploitation*.
  - The major reason one of the species is endangered must be the introduction of an *exotic species*.
  - The major reason the third species is endangered can be for any reason.
  - One of the species must be a **plant**, one must be a **mammal** and one must be an **amphibian**
- III. *Style points will be available for outstanding newsletters.*
  - IV. Your newsletter may be handwritten or printed from a computer. ***It must not exceed one page in length.***

