



Endangered

Means There's Still Time

Endangered Means There's Still Time

- ★ Endangered species are like fire alarms. They tell us about problems in our home we call Earth.
- ★ If we listen to their alarm calls, they could help us improve our lives and the health of our planet.



Definitions

Endangered

- ★ A species of plant or animal that is in immediate danger of becoming extinct and needs protection to survive.

Threatened

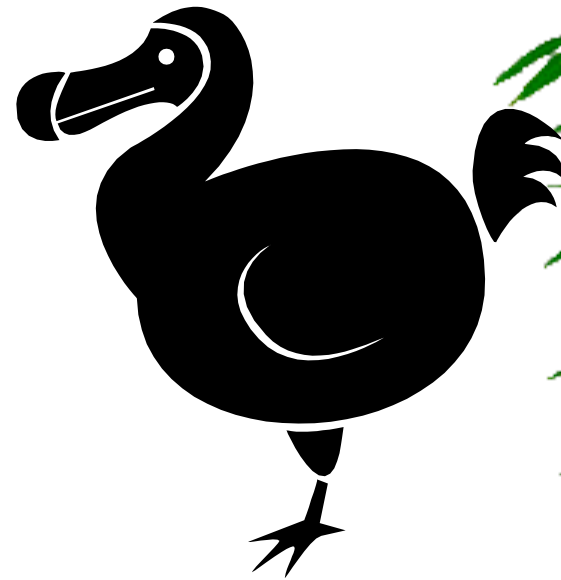
- ★ A species is likely to become endangered if it is not protected



Definitions

Extinct

- ★ A species of plant or animal that is no longer living.



Passenger Pigeon – Now Extinct



Dusky Seaside Sparrow

- ★ Last of these birds died in 1987
- ★ Sparrows lost their homes as marshes were destroyed



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★ An endangered species is one that is getting close to extinction.

Black Rhino of Africa



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- ★ Gray wolves are also endangered in most of the lower 48 states.



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- ★ A threatened species is just a step behind, and may soon become endangered if we don't help.



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African
Elephant

- ★ Poachers cut off their ivory tusks to make carvings and sell them for money.



Ways That Species Become Endangered

HIPPCO

- ★ Habitat Loss
- ★ Illegal Killing/Invasives
- ★ Population and Resources (competition)
- ★ Pollution/Pesticides
- ★ Climate Change
- ★ Overexploitation



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- ★ It is because of habitat loss that spotted owls are threatened.



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- ★ Different aged trees like this are perfect for owls nests, food, shelter and protection from predators.



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- ★ The spotted owl's problem started years ago when old growth forests were cut faster than they could regrow.

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- ★ The spotted owl is our fire alarm to the problem of over-cutting our forests.

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- ★ It is also because of habitat loss that whooping cranes are endangered.



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- ★ Whooping cranes need wetlands for food and protection.



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- ★ Historically, wetlands were considered wastelands, suitable only for mosquitoes and draining.

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- ★ When wetlands are drained of all their water, this is habitat loss.



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★ Ferrets depend on these prairie dogs for food.



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- ★ Prairie dogs were considered pests by the settlers
- ★ Thousands of prairie dog towns were killed off
- ★ Without the prairie dogs, the ferrets had no food



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- ★ There are two reasons why tigers are endangered, habitat loss and illegal killing.



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- ★ Certain human activities are also the main problem facing the endangered manatee, or sea cow.



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- ★ Sometimes speed boats run over the manatees.



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- ★ Not all endangered species are mammals and birds we are familiar with.



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★ Many plants, like this insect-eating pitcher plant, are endangered.



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★ This is a bunched Cory Cactus, a very endangered plant found in the Southwest deserts.



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- ★ All living things, from mammals to fish and insects, are connected and depend on each other for survival.



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- ★ All living things are connected to each other including humans.



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- ★ It has been estimated that a disappearing plant can take with it up to 30 other species.



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- ★ Endangered species show us that our world may not be as healthy as we think.



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- ★ The use of a dangerous pesticide called DDT caused bald eagles to begin laying eggs with shells so thin they often broke.



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- ★ DDT was being used on farms to control agricultural pests.



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- ★ Brown pelicans also signaled the DDT alarm to us when their egg shells started thinning.



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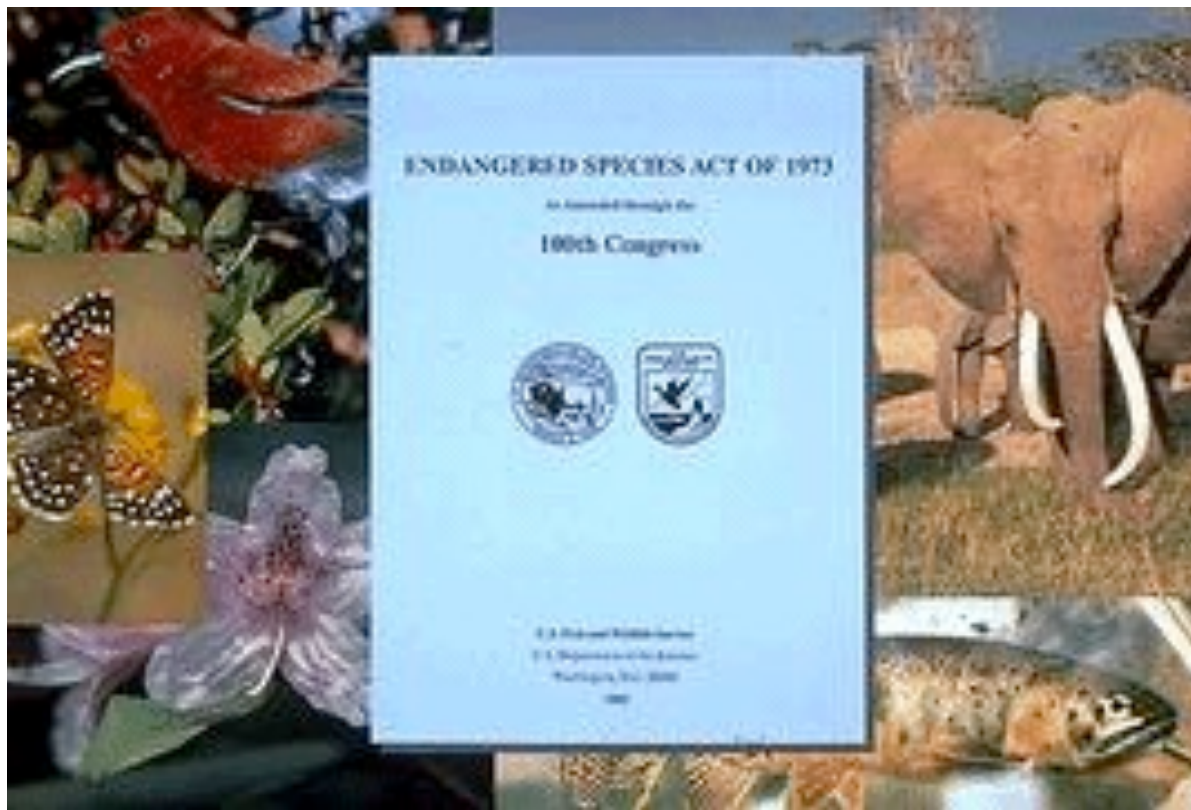


- ★ The system of living things depending on one another is called an ecosystem.





- ★ It is the job of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to manage over 500 refuges with over 90 million acres for the conservation of endangered species, ecosystems, and natural diversity.



- ★ In 1973, the Endangered Species Act was passed by our government to protect disappearing plants and animals.





- ★ More than 900 species of plants and animals in the U.S., and more than 530 species living in other parts of the world, are protected by the Endangered Species Act.





- ★ According to the Act, it is illegal to import, export, or sell animals and plants on the list across state lines.





★ What can you do to help endangered species?



- ★ Learn as much as you can about endangered species in your area
- ★ Visit a nearby national wildlife refuge or nature center
- ★ Volunteer to help
- ★ Don't buy species illegally taken from the wild
- ★ Don't buy products made from threatened or endangered species.





★ The most hope for endangered species lies in the hands of young people like you who care enough to make a difference.



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