

VOCABULARY

Alien species: See “exotic”

Basic needs: Necessities for the survival of an organism: food, water, shelter, air and space

Bioaccumulation: The absorption and concentration of toxic chemicals in the tissues of organisms. Toxins are stored in fatty tissues of animals and are passed up the food chain from prey to predators. Toxins occur in higher concentrations in animals at the top of the food chain.

Bioclimatic zone (or biome): A region broadly defined by the relationship of the area’s temperature range, annual precipitation and living organisms

Biodiversity: The relative abundance and number of living organism in a certain area. Biodiversity can refer to the diversity of genes in a species and the diversity of ecosystems on the planet.

Conservation: The management of natural resources, including wildlife and habitats, to sustain resources for the future. Preservation, protection and wise use can all be a part of conservation practices.

Ecosystem: An area of any size in which biotic (living) and abiotic (nonliving) components interact and through which nutrients and energy cycle

Endangered: A species or population that is in danger of extinction if no actions are taken to protect the species

Endemic: Specific to a region; found there and nowhere else

Environment: The physical surroundings within which an organism or group of organisms exists

Exotic: From another part of the world; refers to a species that is not native to the area

Extinction: The dying out of a species

Extirpated: When a species is no longer found in a portion of its range

Family: A taxonomic group which precedes genus. For example, the family Felidae includes all felines.

Feral: Refers to a domesticated animal that has reverted to living in a wild state independent of humans.

Genus (plural genera): A taxonomic group which precedes species. For example, the genus *Panthera* includes many large species of cats.

Habitat: The area that supplies an organism or group of organisms with all their basic needs for survival (food, water, shelter, air and space)

Habitat fragmentation: When the destruction of the places where organisms live leaves isolated patches of usable habitat

Habitat loss: The destruction of places where organisms live; often caused by human activity, especially development

Indigenous: Refers to a species which is native to a region; refers to people who have traditionally occupied a region

Injurious: Refers to a species which is harmful in some way to humans, agriculture or wildlife resources

Introduced species: A species that was transported, often by human activity, from its native region to new locations

Mass extinction: The dying out of species on a large scale over a geologically short period of time (a few million years or less)

Minor breeds: Breeds of domestic livestock that exist only in small numbers and may be in danger of extinction

Niche: An organism’s ecological role in its environment

Overharvesting: The gathering, catching, hunting or killing of species or natural resources at a higher rate than the species or resources can replace themselves

Overhunting: The hunting of species at a higher rate than the species can replace themselves

Pesticides: Substances, often chemicals, used to kill insects and other organisms considered to be pests

Pollution: The contamination of soil, water, or the atmosphere with harmful substances. Such things as chemicals, hazardous wastes, heat, light and noise can cause pollution.

Population: A group of organisms of the same species inhabiting a particular area; the count of individuals in such a group

Rare: Uncommon; a rare species is one not found in large numbers in any part of its range but not believed to be in danger of extinction

Species: A taxonomic group of individual organisms potentially capable of breeding and producing fertile offspring

Subspecies: Subdivided populations of species which exhibit distinct characteristics. Subspecies are often geographically isolated.

Threatened: Any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future. A threatened species may be close to extinction in parts of its range.

Vulnerable: Susceptible to harm or damage; a species that may be liable to becoming extinct in part of its range

Wildlife: Living organisms that survive independently of humans; undomesticated plants and animals

ACRONYMS USED IN THE TEXT

APHIS: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
AZA: Association of Zoos and Aquariums
AZH: Association of Zoological Horticulture
CAP: Conservation Action Partnership
CFC: Chloroflourocarbon
CPC: Center for Plant Conservation
CITES: Convention on International Trade in
Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna
DDT: Dichlorodiphenyl-trichloroethane
DNA: Deoxyribonucleic acid
ESA: Endangered Species Act
ESU: Evolutionary Significant Units
IUCN: World Conservation Union
NMFS: National Marine Fisheries Service
PCB: Polychlorinated biphenyl
PHS: Priority Habitats and Species
SSP: Species Survival Plan
TAG: Taxon Advisory Group
UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization
USFWS: United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WDFW: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

RESOURCES

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EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

- Access Excellence Web site. Biology activities and science news updates. www.gene.com/ae.
- Cook, Shirley. *Endangered Species: Linking Environmental Studies With Everyday Life*. Nashville, TN: Incentive Publications, Inc., 1993.
- Endangered Species: Wild & Rare* (Naturescope, Vol. 3) A 65 page booklet for teachers of grades K-8. Order from National Wildlife Federation, 1400 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036. Call 1-800-477-5560 for information.
- Field, Nancy and Sally Machlis. *Discovering Endangered Species: A Learning and Activity Book*. Corvallis, OR: Dog-Eared Publications, 1990.
- Global Environmental Change: *Introduced Species*. National Science Teachers Association and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Research and Development, 1997. 64 pp. \$12.95. Grades 9-12. Call 1-800-722-NSTA to order. (Other titles in the same series: *Biodiversity*, *Deforestation*, and *Carrying Capacity*.)
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BOOKS FOR STUDENTS

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Protecting Endangered Species. Usborne Conservation Guide. Usborne Publishing. 1990.

Saving Animal Friends. ZooBooks. P.O. Box 95271, Suite 6, San Diego, CA. 92138.

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Swinburne, Stephen R. *Once a Wolf: How Wildlife Biologists Brought Back the Gray Wolf*. Scientists in the Field Series. Houghton Mifflin Co., 1999.

Taylor, J. David. *The Endangered Animals Series*. Crabtree Publishing, 1992. (Titles include: *Endangered Desert Animals*, *Endangered Forest Animals*, *Endangered Grassland Animals*, *Endangered Island Animals*, *Endangered Mountain Animals*, *Endangered Ocean Animals*, *Endangered Savannah Animals*, *Endangered Wetland Animals*.)

Tesar, Jenny. *Endangered Habitats*. Our Fragile Planet Series. New York: Facts On File, 1992.

Wolkomir, Joyce Rogers and Richard Wolkomir. *Junkyard Bandicoots and Other Tales of the World's Endangered Species*. New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1992.

Wright, Alexandra. *Les Echaremos De Menos? Especies En Peligro De Extincion (Will We Miss Them? Endangered Species)*. Charlesbridge Publishing, 1992.

Wright, Alexandra. *Will We Miss Them? Endangered Species*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge Publishing. 1992.

ENDANGERED SPECIES AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS

The following resources can be borrowed from Woodland Park Zoo for a maximum of two weeks and must be picked up and dropped off at the zoo's Seattle Rotary Education Center. Call 206.684.4834 for information on borrowing these resources.

Slide Sets/CD-ROMs

Slide sets and CD-ROMs are available on a loan basis and must be returned to the zoo within two weeks. All slide sets must be picked up and dropped off at the zoo's Seattle Rotary Education Center. \$5.00 loan fee; \$10.00 replacement deposit

The Snow Leopard: A Vanishing Vision

Time: 12 minutes Grades: 5-12

The International Snow Leopard Trust produced this slide/tape program to enhance people's awareness of the plight of the snow leopard. This highly endangered cat has historically been hunted for its luxurious pelt. Today, snow leopards face a situation that is potentially more devastating—destruction of their habitat.

We Care About Eagles

Time: 15 minutes

Grades: 5-12

This slide/tape program produced by the National Wildlife Federation introduces students to eagles and the factors threatening their survival.

Wild Spaces, Wild Species – A Biodiversity Journey

Time: 18.5 minutes

Grades: 5-12

This slide/tape/CD-ROM program, produced by World Wildlife Fund, explores the incredible diversity of living things on the planet, the many benefits we get from biodiversity, and the challenges facing biodiversity conservation.

Videos and DVDs

Videos and DVDs are available on a loan basis and must be returned to the zoo within two weeks. All videos and DVDs must be picked up and dropped off at the zoo's Seattle Rotary Education Center. \$5.00 loan fee; \$10.00 replacement deposit.

Bats of America (1989)

Time: 16 minutes

Grades: 1-6

This video is the finest assembly of pictures depicting the lives of North American bats, from the common to the endangered. Produced by Bat Conservation International, this video offers an in-depth look at the fascinating world of bats, their importance to ecosystems and the threats facing these winged mammals.

Bats: Myth and Reality (1985)

Time: 16 minutes

Grades: 2-12

From the tiny "bumblebee bat" of Thailand to the giant Lyle's flying fox, this video introduces students to the second largest group of mammals in the world. This video, produced by Bat Conservation International, emphasizes the ecological importance and conservation needs of bats worldwide.

India: Land of the Tiger (1998)

Time: Six cassettes, 60 minutes each Grades: 6-12

This six-hour miniseries presents not just the mesmerizing, stunningly photographed beauty and astonishing diversity of wildlife on the Indian subcontinent, but also how humanity is entangled with nature. Host and narrator, Valmik Thapar, is a world-renowned tiger expert, wildlife conservationist and author, well known in India for his tireless efforts to achieve a balance between social and economic policies and the survival of the tiger. Volumes may be borrowed singly or two at a time only. Volume 1 – The Tiger's Domain, Volume 2 – Sacred Waters, Volume 3 – Unknown Seas, Volume 4 – Desert Kingdom, Volume 5 – Mountains of the Gods, Volume 6 – Monsoon Forests.

Natural Connections (1999)

Time: 48 minutes

Grades: 6-12

This video, produced by the King County Solid Waste division, focuses on the interconnectedness among different species and their ecosystems, and how our everyday actions affect the environment. Several Northwest scientists explain aspects of the natural world including biodiversity, the role of salmon in the web of life, keystone species, healthy forests, and the effects of humans on the environment.

Rain Forest Rap (1988)

Time: 6 minutes

Grades: K-3

Accompanied by fast-paced rap music, this video, produced by World Wildlife Fund, highlights the beauty and fragility of the rain forest.

Strange Days on Planet Earth (2005)

Time: four 60-minute segments

Grades: 4-12

Format: DVD

Around the globe, scientists are racing to solve a series of mysteries: what happens to an ecosystem when top predators disappear? Why do invasive species cause such havoc? National Geographic's *Strange Days on Planet Earth* uses engaging storytelling and innovative imaging to explore new discoveries about the health of the planet. Each of the four one-hour episodes (*Invaders*, *The One Degree Factor*, *Predators and Troubled Waters*) is constructed as a high-tech detective story, revealing the way that seemingly distant events are connected and how they are affecting our individual health and well being. Includes an Activity Guide for educators.

Vanishing Giants (1994)

Time: three 10-minute segments

Grades: 5-12

Produced by KOMO TV and Sister Parks

International, this video includes three segments on endangered African wildlife: elephants, black rhinos and mountain gorillas.

The Vanishing Shrub-Steppe (2001)

Time: 20 minutes

Grades: K-8

Produced by LeapFrog Productions and the Bureau of Land Management, this video takes you on a journey through the shrub-steppe landscape of central Washington, including basalt cliffs and coulees, blooming wildflowers, sagebrush-covered hills and isolated ponds and streams. Four threatened shrub-steppe animals are highlighted.

World Population: A Graphic Simulation of the History of Human Population Growth (2000)

Time: 7 minutes

Grades: 5-12

Developed by Population Connection (formerly Zero Population Growth), this video provides a dramatic overview of the history of global population growth. As a discussion tool, it can serve as a starting point for a closer examination of human population dynamics and their environmental and social impacts.

TEACHING KITS (SMALL)

Teaching kits are available on a loan basis and must be returned to the zoo within two weeks. All teaching kits must be picked up and dropped off at the zoo's Seattle Rotary Education Center. \$5.00 loan fee; \$10.00 replacement deposit.

Habitats: Realm of the Tiger

Grades: 3-12

This teaching kit, produced by the National Geographic Society, includes two videos, student handout masters, 40 transparencies and a teacher's guide. The kit focuses on tigers, their habitats and issues concerning their survival in the wild.

Amphibian Alert

Grades: 2-5

This teaching kit, produced by the Declining Amphibian Population Task Force and the Amphibian Taxon Advisory Group of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, focuses on why amphibian population declines are important to scientists and communities throughout the world. The kit includes background information, three slide presentations, audio and video tapes, *The Salamander Room* by Anne Mazer, sample posters and reading material, classroom lesson plans and field activities.

TEACHING KITS (LARGE)

Teaching kits are available on a loan basis and must be returned to the zoo within two weeks. All teaching kits must be picked up and dropped off at the zoo's Seattle Rotary Education Center. \$10.00 loan fee; \$25.00 replacement deposit.

Suitcase for Survival

Grades: 5-12

This teaching kit, containing confiscated endangered species items obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service together with education materials prepared by World Wildlife Fund, is available for loan to middle school educators upon completion of a zoo-sponsored teacher workshop concerning international wildlife trade and its serious impact on animal survival. Consult the zoo's educators' newsletter, *Zoo Edition*, or call 206-684-4834 for dates and times of upcoming teacher workshops.

WEB SITES (SEE ALSO “CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS”)

2006 World Population Data Sheet

http://www.prb.org/Template.cfm?Section=PRB&template=/Content/ContentGroups/Datasheets/2006_World_Population_Data_Sheet.htm

American Livestock Breeds Conservancy

<http://albc-usa.org/whatalbc.htm>

American Museum of Natural History: Endangered — Exploring A World At Risk (1996 exhibition)

<http://amnh.org/nationalcenter/Endangered/index.html>

- Endangered animals
- Endangered habitats
- Causes of endangerment

Bagheera: A website for our endangered species

www.bagheera.com

- Curriculum for grades 9-12
- Endangered species data base
- Government agencies and resources

CITES Home Page

<http://www.cites.org/>

Environmental Education Link—Endangered Species

<http://eelink.net/EndSpp/>

- Endangered and extinct species lists
- Investigating endangered species in the classroom
- Policy on endangered species

National Wildlife Federation Home Page

<http://www.nwf.org/>

- Endangered habitats and species
- Online educator’s workshop

Population Connection

<http://www.populationconnection.org/>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service—Endangered Species Home Page

<http://endangered.fws.gov/>

- Program overview
- Endangered Species Act (full text)
- Species information
- Species recovery

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/>

- Wildlife (including endangered species)
- Land and habitat
- Educator resources
- Fish and Wildlife Commission

Washington Natural Heritage Program

<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/nhp/>

Woodland Park Zoo

<http://www.zoo.org>

- Information on endangered species at the zoo conservation programs at the zoo
- Animal and plant fact sheets

World Wildlife Fund Global Network

<http://www.panda.org>

- Global conservation priorities
- Country profiles
- WWF fact sheets

World Wildlife Fund — United States

<http://www.worldwildlife.org>

- Biological diversity of North America

CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS

Conservation International

1015 18th Street, NW, Suite 1000

Washington, DC 20036

(202) 429-5660

<http://www.conservation.org>

- Dedicated to the preservation of tropical ecosystems, works in partnership with indigenous peoples and with organizations to sustain biological diversity.

National Audubon Society

950 Third Avenue

New York, NY 10022

(212) 832-3200

www.audubon.org

- One of the oldest and largest conservation organizations, ask about their tropical rain forest activist program.
- Local affiliate:
Seattle Audubon Society
8028 35th NE
Seattle, WA 98115
(206) 523-4483
<http://www.seattleaudubon.org>

National Wildlife Federation

1400 16th Street NW

Washington, D.C. 20036

(202) 797-6800

<http://www.nwf.org>

- NatureScope materials for classroom use are excellent, ask about their educational materials catalog. Call 1-800-477-5560 for information on NatureScope.

Rainforest Action Network
221 Pine Street, Suite 500
San Francisco, CA 94104
(415) 398-4404

<http://www.ran.org>

- Classroom materials, World Rainforest Week information, RAN Action Alerts, many publications and a lot of informational resources.

The Seattle Aquarium
1483 Alaskan Way
Pier 59
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 386-4353

<http://www.seattleaquarium.org>

- Ask for information on endangered marine habitats, such as coral reefs.

Sierra Club
85 Second St., Second Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 977-5500

<http://www.sierraclub.org>

- Ask about their International Committee & Tropical Rainforest Subcommittee.
- Local chapter:
Sierra Club Cascade Chapter
15th Ave NE, Suite #201
Seattle, WA 98115
(206) 523-2147

Woodland Park Zoo
5500 Phinney Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98103
(206) 684-4800

<http://www.zoo.org>

- Ask for information on endangered species and current conservation programs at the zoo. Educational opportunities include school programs; daily, on-site public programs; teacher training; classes and clubs; and lectures.

World Wildlife Fund — U.S.
1250 24th Street NW
Washington, DC 20037
(202) 293-4800

<http://www.worldwildlife.org>

- Largest private organization working worldwide to protect endangered species and wildlands—especially in the tropical forests of Latin America, Asia and Africa.

ADOPT-AN-ACRE/ADOPT-A-REEF PROJECTS

Adopt-an-Acre/Adopt-A-Reef
Center for Ecosystem Survival
699 Mississippi, Suite 106
San Francisco, CA 94107
Phone/Fax (415) 648-3392
Email: info@savenature.org
<http://www.savenature.org/adoptacre.html>

Adopt An Acre
The Nature Conservancy
Attn: Treasury (Web/Support)
4245 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 100
Arlington, VA 22203, USA
(800) 84-ADOPT
<http://www.nature.org/joinanddonate/adoptanacre/about/>

ADOPT-AN-ANIMAL PROJECTS

Woodland Park Zoo
ZooParent Adoption
<http://www.zoo.org/zoocart/adoptions.html>

ZooParent is an adoption program designed for families, individuals, and children's groups. ZooParents adopt an animal species at Woodland Park Zoo and promise to care about its welfare in the wild. ZooParents receive a certificate of adoption in the name of the group, background information about the adopted species, and the group's or individual's name on the ZooParent sign at Woodland Park Zoo.