

Endangered Species

Learning aims:

- Develop scientific language including terms "conservation", "endangered" and "extinct"
- Discover endangered species of the UK
- Explore conservation opportunities that can be done in school or at home

Activity 1: Language

Discuss the following terms with your class:

- **Species** - A group of organisms that have similar characteristics and can reproduce naturally
- **Extinct** - There is no living example of a species left on Earth
- **Extinct in the wild** - There is no living example of a species living in the wild, but they are found in zoos, for example
- **Endangered** - A species is at risk of becoming extinct in the near future
- **Conservation** - The efforts that humans take to try and prevent a species becoming extinct

Activity 2: Endangered Species in the UK

Challenge your class to **research** an endangered species that lives in the UK (this can be animal, plant or fungus!). They should find out **where** the species is found, **why** it is endangered and **how** humans are trying to help save them from extinction. After their research, your class could make conservation **posters or videos** to help spread the message of conservation for their chosen animal.

Activity 3: Global Conservation Projects

Look at the work that different **charities and organisations** are doing to help prevent extinction of animals around the world.

Identify any **common themes** of conservation efforts that you notice, for example - preventing habitat destruction, hunting or trafficking of endangered animals.

Discuss what everyone in your class can do to reduce their impact on some of these conservation issues (i.e. choosing "FSC approved" wood-based products).

Activity 4: Preventing Extinction

Now split your class into small groups and challenge them to research an **extinct animal**. Find out why it is extinct and if humans were involved. Now recreate activity 2 for this extinct species and imagine you are writing an **appeal** to save the animal before it went extinct! (i.e. "Save the Dodo").

*Additional Activity: Choose a current conservation project to support as a class and organise a **fundraiser** or education event about an endangered species.*