

# 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.*