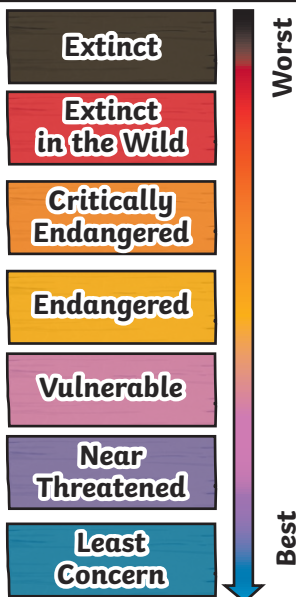


Endangered Animals

What Are Endangered Animals?

The phrase 'endangered animals' is a general term used to describe creatures that are at risk of extinction. Endangered animals are categorised using a system called the 'Red List'.



Name: **Javan rhino**



Current Status:

Habitat: forest

Location: Indonesia

Population: around 70

Critically Endangered

Name: **hawksbill turtle**



Current Status:

Habitat: marine

Location: West Atlantic (Caribbean) Ocean, Indian Ocean

Population: around 8000

Critically Endangered

The hawksbill sea turtle is found gliding around the coral reefs of tropical oceans across the world. They are an essential element of the marine ecosystems they inhabit, fulfilling vital roles that ensure the health of coral reefs.

Hawksbills currently face a number of significant threats to their existence. They are vulnerable to entanglement in fishing nets and – despite being a protected species – many hawksbills are still lost to the illegal wildlife trade. Their magnificent shells are sought after due to their beautiful patterns and are made into ornaments and jewellery.

The Javan rhinoceros is a creature on the brink of extinction. They now only exist in one small area of protected parkland in Java, Indonesia. Some of the main threats to the Javan rhinos are natural disasters, habitat loss and diseases.

The only area where the Javan rhino exists is vulnerable to tsunamis as well as eruptions from a nearby volcano. Either of these events could easily wipe out most, if not all, of the remaining creatures. The limited habitat where these rhinos live is also threatened by encroaching human settlements around it as well as invasive plant species, such as the arenga palm. In recent years, several rhinos are thought to have died from diseases passed to them through domestic cattle infecting wild breeds.

Name: **Sunda tiger**
(Sumatran)



Endangered

Current Status:

Habitat:

rainforests,
grasslands,
savannas

Location:

Sumatra, Asia

Population:

<400

The tropical island of Sumatra is the only place where tigers, rhinos, orangutans and elephants coexist in the wild. It is an extraordinary haven of biodiversity; sadly, it is not without its risks. The current status of the Sunda tiger suggests that they could disappear from the wild altogether in just a few short years.

Conservationists have worked tirelessly to combat the illegal poaching of tigers and impose harsh punishments on those perpetrating wildlife crimes.

However, it is estimated that at least 40 tigers are still lost each year to the illegal wildlife trade. The habitat of the Sunda tiger is under near-constant threat from humans clearing the forest to farm palm oil trees or build settlements. Not only does this reduce the tigers' habitat but it often isolates them from each other – inhibiting breeding, feeding and dispersing.

How Can You Help?

Simply raising awareness of the dangers faced by these precious creatures can help. Most conservation work to protect endangered species is funded by charities. Could you arrange a charity event in your school or community?

Questions

1. Which of these creatures does **not** live in Sumatra? Tick one.

- ☐ Sunda tiger
- ☐ hawksbill turtle
- ☐ rhinos
- ☐ orangutans

2. Look at this sentence. Underline the adjective that describes the hawksbill turtle's shell.

Their magnificent shells are sought after due to their beautiful patterns and are made into ornaments and jewellery.

3. Look at the section about the Javan rhino.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'edge'.

4. Fill in the missing words.

Conservationists have worked _____ to combat the illegal poaching of tigers and impose harsh punishments on those _____ wildlife crimes.

5. Name one natural disaster that could affect the existence of the Javan rhino.

6. Why do you think the illegal wildlife trade is still such a significant problem?

7. Compare the threats faced by the Javan rhino to those of the hawksbill turtle.

8. Summarise the main risks that endangered animals face today.

Answers

1. Which of these creatures does **not** live in Sumatra? Tick one.

- ☐ Sunda tiger
- ☒ **hawksbill turtle**
- ☐ rhinos
- ☐ orangutans

2. Look at this sentence. Underline the adjective that describes the hawksbill turtle's shell.

Their **magnificent** shells are sought after due to their beautiful patterns and are made into ornaments and jewellery.

Award 1 mark for:

magnificent

3. Look at the section about the Javan rhino.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'edge'.

brink

4. Fill in the missing words.

Conservationists have worked **tirelessly** to combat the illegal poaching of tigers and impose harsh punishments on those **perpetrating** wildlife crimes.

5. Name one natural disaster that could affect the existence of the Javan rhino.

Accept either: tsunami or volcano eruption

6. Why do you think the illegal wildlife trade is still such a significant problem?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the illegal wildlife trade is still a significant problem because there are still selfish people in the world who are willing to purchase items made from endangered animals. I also think that while illegal wildlife traders are still making money, they will continue to hunt endangered species.

7. Compare the threats faced by the Javan rhino to those of the hawksbill turtle.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The Javan rhino and the hawksbill turtle both face different threats. For example, the Javan rhino is at risk from a volcanic eruption and the hawksbill turtle suffers due to fishing practices. However, they both suffer from threats caused by the actions of humans either through the illegal wildlife trade or reduction of their habitat.

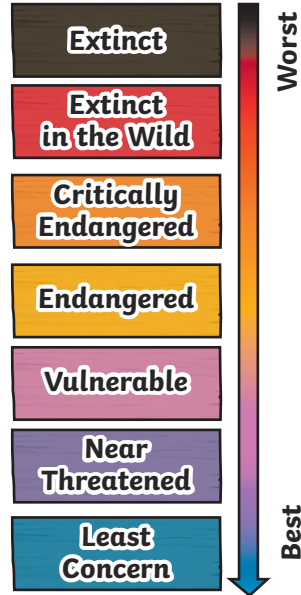
8. Summarise the main risks that endangered animals face today.

Pupils' own responses, such as: It seems that many of the animals that are already on the 'Red List' are still suffering due to the illegal wildlife trade. Some of the animals discussed are also under threat due to the loss of their habitat, which is caused by expanding settlements, farming or fishing.

Endangered Animals

What Are Endangered Animals?

The phrase 'endangered animals' is a blanket term used to describe creatures that are at risk of extinction. Endangered animals are categorised using an index called the 'Red List'. Species are ranked according to the current severity of the risk to their existence.



Name: African forest elephant



Current Status:

Habitat:	forest, savanna, shrubland
Location:	Africa
Population:	<100,000

Name: hawksbill turtle



Current Status:

Habitat:	marine
Location:	West Atlantic (Caribbean) Ocean, Indian Ocean
Population:	around 8000

The hawksbill sea turtle is found gliding around coral reefs in tropical oceans across the world. Hawksbills are a living representative of a group of marine reptiles that have existed on the Earth for over 100 million years. They are an essential component of the marine ecosystems they inhabit, fulfilling vital roles that ensure the health of coral reefs and seagrass beds.

African forest elephants are the lesser-known cousin of the famous African savanna elephant. Found in the thick rainforests of west and central African countries, they are smaller than their savanna-dwelling relatives and feed on foraged leaves, grasses, seeds and fruit from the forest. Many refer to these majestic mammals as the 'mega-gardener of the forest'; this is because they play a vital role in the seed dispersal of many forest flora. Numerous seeds of the plants in the forests these elephants frequent will only germinate once they have passed through an elephant's digestive system.

Sadly, these mesmerising giants are highly prized in the illegal wildlife trade for the ivory from their tusks as well as their bushmeat. Aside from this, they face the ongoing challenge of loss of their habitat as forest conversion and human infrastructure encroaches on their roaming ranges.

Hawksbill Turtle

Hawksbills currently face a number of significant threats to their existence. They are particularly vulnerable to accidental entanglement in fishing nets as they need to reach the surface to breathe. Sadly, despite being a protected species, many hawksbills are still lost to the illegal wildlife trade. Their exquisite shells are much sought after due to their beautiful patterns and are often made into ornaments and jewellery.

Name: **Sunda tiger**
(Sumatran)



Endangered

Current Status:

Habitat:

rainforests,
grasslands,
savannas

Location:

Sumatra, Asia

Population:

<400

These magnificent creatures are distinguished by their heavy black stripes and bold orange coats. The tropical island of Sumatra is the only place where tigers, rhinos, orangutans and elephants coexist in the wild. It is an extraordinary haven of biodiversity; sadly, it is not without its risks. The current status of the Sunda tiger suggests that they could disappear from the wild altogether in just a few short years.

Conservationists have worked tirelessly to combat the illegal poaching of tigers and impose harsh punishments on those perpetrating wildlife crimes. However, sadly, it is estimated that at least 40 tigers are still lost each year to the illegal wildlife trade. The habitat of the Sunda tiger is under near-constant threat from humans clearing the forest in order to farm trees for palm oil and other plantations (for example, rubber) or build settlements.

Not only does this reduce the tigers' habitat but it often isolates them from each other – inhibiting breeding, feeding and dispersing.

How Can You Help?

Simply raising awareness of the dangers faced by these precious creatures can help. Most of the conservation work undertaken to protect endangered species is funded by charities. Could you arrange a charity event in your school or community?

Questions

1. Which of the following is **not** an African forest elephant habitat? Tick one.

- ☐ forest
- ☐ savanna
- ☐ grassland
- ☐ shrubland

2. Draw **four** lines and match each number to the correct fact.

estimated number of African forest elephants in the wild

at least 40

estimated number of Sunda tigers in the wild

<100,000

number of Sunda tigers lost to illegal poaching each year

around 8000

estimated number of hawksbill turtles in the wild

<400

3. Look at the section about African forest elephants.
Find and copy one word which means the same as 'living'.

4. What is the name of the list used to categorise endangered species?

5. Fill in the missing words.

The habitat of the Sunda tiger is under _____ threat from humans clearing the forest in order to farm trees for palm oil and other _____ (for example, rubber) or build settlements.

6. Why do you think conservation work is important?

7. Compare the threats faced by the African forest elephant and the Sunda tiger.

8. How do you predict the status of these animals will change in the future?

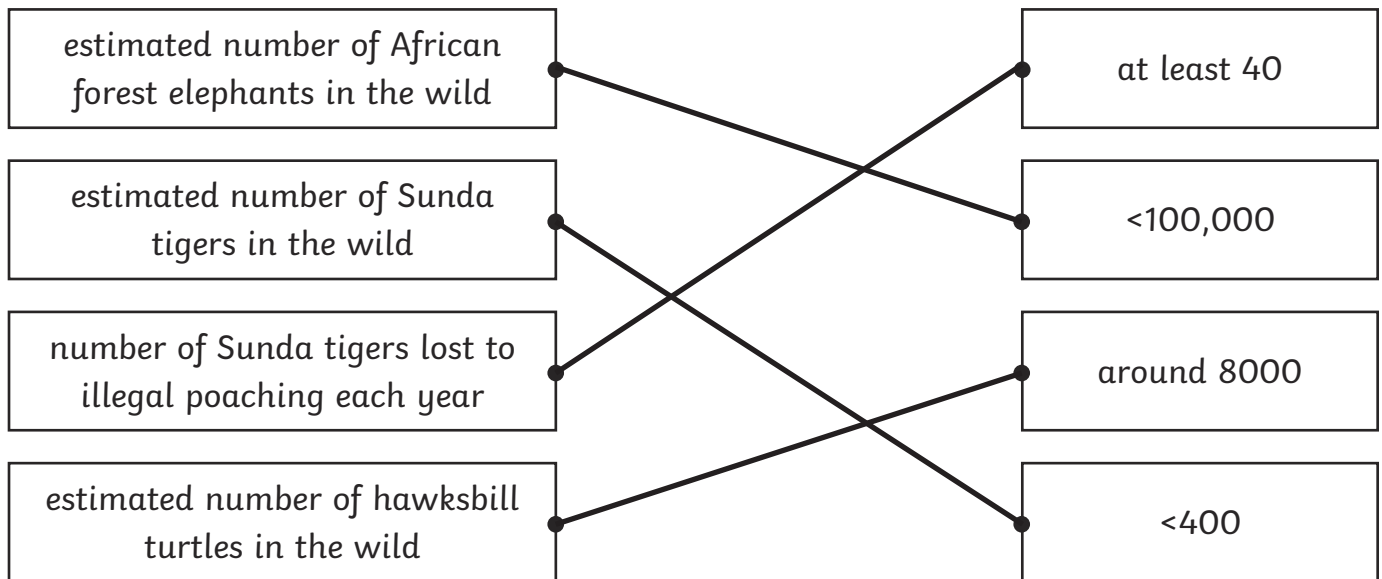
9. Discuss how humans have had a negative impact on the natural world.

Answers

1. Which of the following is **not** an African forest elephant habitat? Tick one.

- ☐ forest
- ☐ savanna
- ☒ **grassland**
- ☐ shrubland

2. Draw **four** lines and match each number to the correct fact.



3. Look at the section about African forest elephants.
Find and copy one word which means the same as 'living'.

dwelling

4. What is the name of the list used to categorise endangered species?

The name of the list used to categorise endangered species is the 'Red List'.

5. Fill in the missing words.

The habitat of the Sunda tiger is under **near-constant** threat from humans clearing the forest in order to farm trees for palm oil and other **plantations** (for example, rubber) or build settlements.

6. Why do you think conservation work is important?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think conservation work is vitally important because without it, more and more precious species will vanish from the planet altogether. As we can see from some of the numbers in the text, such as only 400 Sunda tigers remaining, we may already be too late for some creatures but it is essential that this important work continues to protect the biodiversity of our planet.

7. Compare the threats faced by the African forest elephant and the Sunda tiger.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The African forest elephant and the Sunda tiger unfortunately share many common threats. Almost all of the risks to their existence are caused by humans. Both species are significantly targeted by the illegal wildlife trade and both are suffering from growing human settlements encroaching on and fragmenting their habitat.

8. How do you predict the status of these animals will change in the future?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Sadly, I think these animals will continue to suffer but hopefully with improved funding and awareness the conservation work will be able to prevent them from becoming extinct and disappearing from the planet completely.

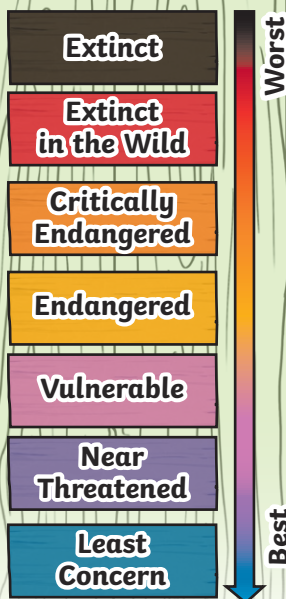
9. Discuss how humans have had a negative impact on the natural world.

Pupils' own responses, such as: From the evidence in this text, humans are clearly the main threat to these incredible creatures. Sadly, humans are responsible for the illegal wildlife trade and loss of habitat, which has led to such negative situations for the natural world.

Endangered Animals

What Are Endangered Animals?

The phrase 'endangered animals' is an umbrella term used to describe creatures that are at risk of extinction. Endangered animals are categorised using an index called the 'Red List', developed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Species are ranked on the 'Red List' according to the current severity of the risk to their existence. There are various levels of severity of endangerment ranging from 'least concern', meaning the animal has only just been added to the list, up to 'extinct in the wild' or 'extinct' – meaning a species either only exists in captivity or has disappeared altogether.



Name: **Javan rhino**



Critically Endangered

Current Status:

Habitat: forest

Location: Indonesia

Population: around 70

The Javan rhinoceros is a creature on the brink of extinction. They are the most endangered of the five species of rhino and now only exist in one small area of protected parkland: Ujung Kulon National Park in Java, Indonesia. Although they are closely related to other rhinoceros species – such as the greater one-horned rhinoceros found across Pakistan and India – they are much smaller. Observers have also commented that the less prominent skin folds across their bodies give the impression of armoured plating. Some of the main threats to the Javan rhinos are natural disasters, habitat loss and diseases.

Disease: In recent years, a number of rhinos are thought to have died from diseases passed to them through domestic cattle infecting wild breeds.

Natural Disasters: The only area where the Javan rhino exists is vulnerable to tsunamis as well as eruptions from a nearby volcano. Either of these occurrences could easily wipe out most, if not all, of the remaining creatures.

Habitat Loss: The limited habitat where these rhinos live is threatened by encroaching human settlements around it as well as certain invasive plant species, such as the arenga palm.

Name: **Sunda tiger**



Endangered

Current Status:

Location: Asia

Habitat: rainforests, grasslands, savannas

Population: <400

Sunda Tiger

Originally named due to their existence across the Sunda islands, today, the only remaining Sunda tigers are found in Sumatra; hence, they are often now called Sumatran tigers. These magnificent creatures are distinguished by their heavy black stripes and bold orange coats. The tropical island of Sumatra is the only place where tigers, rhinos, orangutans and elephants coexist in the wild. It is an extraordinary haven of biodiversity; sadly, it is not without its risks. The current status of the Sunda tiger suggests that they could disappear from the wild altogether in just a few short years.

Conservationists have worked tirelessly to combat the illegal poaching of tigers and impose harsh punishments on those perpetrating wildlife crimes. However, sadly, it is estimated that at least 40 tigers are still lost each year to the illegal wildlife trade. Aside from poaching, the habitat of the Sunda tiger is under near-constant threat from humans clearing the forest in order to farm trees for palm oil and other plantations (for example, rubber) or build settlements. Not only does this reduce the tigers' habitat but it often isolates them from each other – inhibiting breeding, feeding and dispersing.

How Can You Help?

There are many ways in which you can support the protection of endangered species. Simply raising awareness of the dangers faced by these precious creatures can help. Most of the conservation work undertaken to protect endangered species is funded by charities. Could you arrange a charity event in your school or community and donate the funds you raise to a wildlife charity?

All facts and statistics correct as of April 2024.

Endangered Animals

Name: **hawksbill turtle**



Current Status:

Habitat:

marine

Location:

West Atlantic
(Caribbean)
Ocean,
Indian Ocean

Population:

around 8000

The hawksbill sea turtle gets its name from their uniquely narrow and pointed beak shape. These fascinating creatures are found in tropical oceans across the world and mostly frequent areas of coral reef.

Along with their fellow sea turtle species, hawksbills are a living representative of a group of marine reptiles that have existed on the Earth for over 100 million years. They are a fundamental component of the marine ecosystems they inhabit, providing vital support for the health of coral reefs and seagrass beds. As they consume reef-dwelling sponges, they improve access for other reef inhabitants to feed; so continuing the delicate balance of the underwater ecology.

Currently decreasing in number, hawksbills face a number of significant threats to their existence. They are particularly vulnerable to accidental entanglement in fishing nets as they need to reach the surface to breathe. Sadly, despite being a protected species, many hawksbills are still lost to the illegal wildlife trade. Their exquisite shells are much sought after due to their beautiful patterns and are often made into ornaments and jewellery.

Questions

1. Where do the greater one-horned rhinoceros live? Tick one.

- ☐ Java
- ☐ Pakistan and India
- ☐ Indonesia
- ☐ Sumatra

2. Look at this sentence. Underline the adverb which describes the conservationists' work.

Conservationists have worked tirelessly to combat the illegal poaching of tigers and impose harsh punishments on those perpetrating wildlife crimes.

3. Look at the section about the hawksbill turtle.

Find and copy one word which is a synonym for 'essential'.

4. Fill in the missing words.

Observers have also commented that the less _____ skin folds across their bodies give the _____ of armoured plating.

5. What is the IUCN?

6. What do you think is the purpose of the 'Red List'?

7. Explain how the loss of habitat poses a threat to the Sunda tiger.

8. How does the effect of natural disasters on the Javan rhino population compare to the consequences of expanding human settlements?

9. Discuss the effects of the illegal wildlife trade on endangered species.

10. What opinions have you formed about endangered animals? Give **two** opinions, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

Opinion	Evidence

Answers

1. Where do the greater one-horned rhinoceros live? Tick one.

- ☐ Java
- ☒ **Pakistan and India**
- ☐ Indonesia
- ☐ Sumatra

2. Look at this sentence. Underline the adverb which describes the conservationists' work.
Conservationists have worked tirelessly to combat the illegal poaching of tigers and impose harsh punishments on those perpetrating wildlife crimes.

Award 1 mark for:

tirelessly

3. Look at the section about the hawksbill turtle.
Find and copy one word which is a synonym for 'essential'.

fundamental

4. Fill in the missing words.

Observers have also commented that the less **prominent** skin folds across their bodies give the **impression** of armoured plating.

5. What is the IUCN?

The IUCN is the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

6. What do you think is the purpose of the 'Red List'?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the purpose of the 'Red List' is to draw attention to species that are at risk of extinction but also to provide focus by categorising them in order of severity.

7. Explain how the loss of habitat poses a threat to the Sunda tiger.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The loss of habitat causes a significant threat to the Sunda tiger; they naturally have wide roaming grounds and the reduction of their habitat restricts their ability to travel and communicate, which in turn hinders breeding, feeding and survival.

8. How does the effect of natural disasters on the Javan rhino population compare to the consequences of expanding human settlements?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The effects of natural disasters and expanding human settlements are very different but equally severe. Whereas a tsunami or volcanic eruption could wipe out the Javan rhinos in one event, expanding human settlements are gradually causing the same outcome just over a longer period of time.

9. Discuss the effects of the illegal wildlife trade on endangered species.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Of all the threats discussed in the text, the illegal wildlife trade seems the most tragic. It is entirely avoidable but seems to be causing widespread ongoing damage to so many species. Not only does the trade in wildlife parts cause suffering and decreasing numbers, it perpetuates persisting problems with wildlife crime.

10. What opinions have you formed about endangered animals? Give **two** opinions, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

Acceptable Opinion	Likely Evidence
1. Humans cause most of the problems faced by endangered creatures.	• The limited habitat where these rhinos live is threatened by encroaching human settlements around it... • In recent years, a number of rhinos are thought to have died from diseases passed to them through domestic cattle infecting wild breeds. • Aside from poaching, the habitat of the Sunda tiger is under near-constant threat from humans clearing the forest in order to farm trees for palm oil and other plantations (for example, rubber) or build settlements. Not only does this reduce the tigers' habitat but it often isolates them from each other, inhibiting breeding, feeding and dispersing. • Sadly, despite being a protected species, many hawksbills are still lost to the illegal wildlife trade. Their exquisite shells are much sought after due to their beautiful patterns and are often made into ornaments and jewellery.

2. Expanding settlements cause loss of habitat.	• ... the habitat of the Sunda tiger is under near-constant threat from humans clearing the forest in order to farm trees for palm oil and other plantations (for example, rubber) or build settlements. Not only does this reduce the tigers' habitat but it often isolates them from each other, inhibiting breeding, feeding and dispersing. • The limited habitat where these rhinos live is threatened by encroaching human settlements around it...
3. Fishing practices cause harm to endangered species.	• They are particularly vulnerable to accidental entanglement in fishing nets as they need to reach the surface to breathe.
4. Places such as Sumatra need funding and support to protect their precious species.	• The tropical island of Sumatra is the only place where tigers, rhinos, orangutans and elephants coexist in the wild. It is an extraordinary haven of biodiversity; sadly, it is not without its risks. The current status of the Sunda tiger suggests that they could disappear from the wild altogether in just a few short years.

Award 3 marks for **two** acceptable points, at least **one** with evidence.

Award 2 marks for either **two** acceptable points, or **one** acceptable point with evidence.

Award 1 mark for **one** acceptable point.