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PLANTS and ANIMALS

Wildlife rules

Time:

45 minutes

Who it's for:

5 to 10 year olds

You'll need:

- Flipchart and pen,
- Lamps or torches
- 'Shadow animals' – sheets A and B

What to do:

1. Ask the group what they think wild animals need to live, and to thrive. What would make it difficult for them? (e.g. litter, destruction of their habitat etc.) Make lists of all the suggestions.
2. Split the group into pairs and give one child a copy of 'Shadow animals' sheet A and one a copy of sheet B.
3. In their pairs, members take it in turns to place their animal shape over the torch while their partner guesses which animal it is.
4. Thinking about the lists of what animals need to survive and thrive, invite members to make up some rules for people to follow to help animals they see in the wild in their local area. e.g. don't trap or catch animals, don't drop litter etc.
5. Each member could produce their own illustrated set of rules and keep a copy as a reminder.

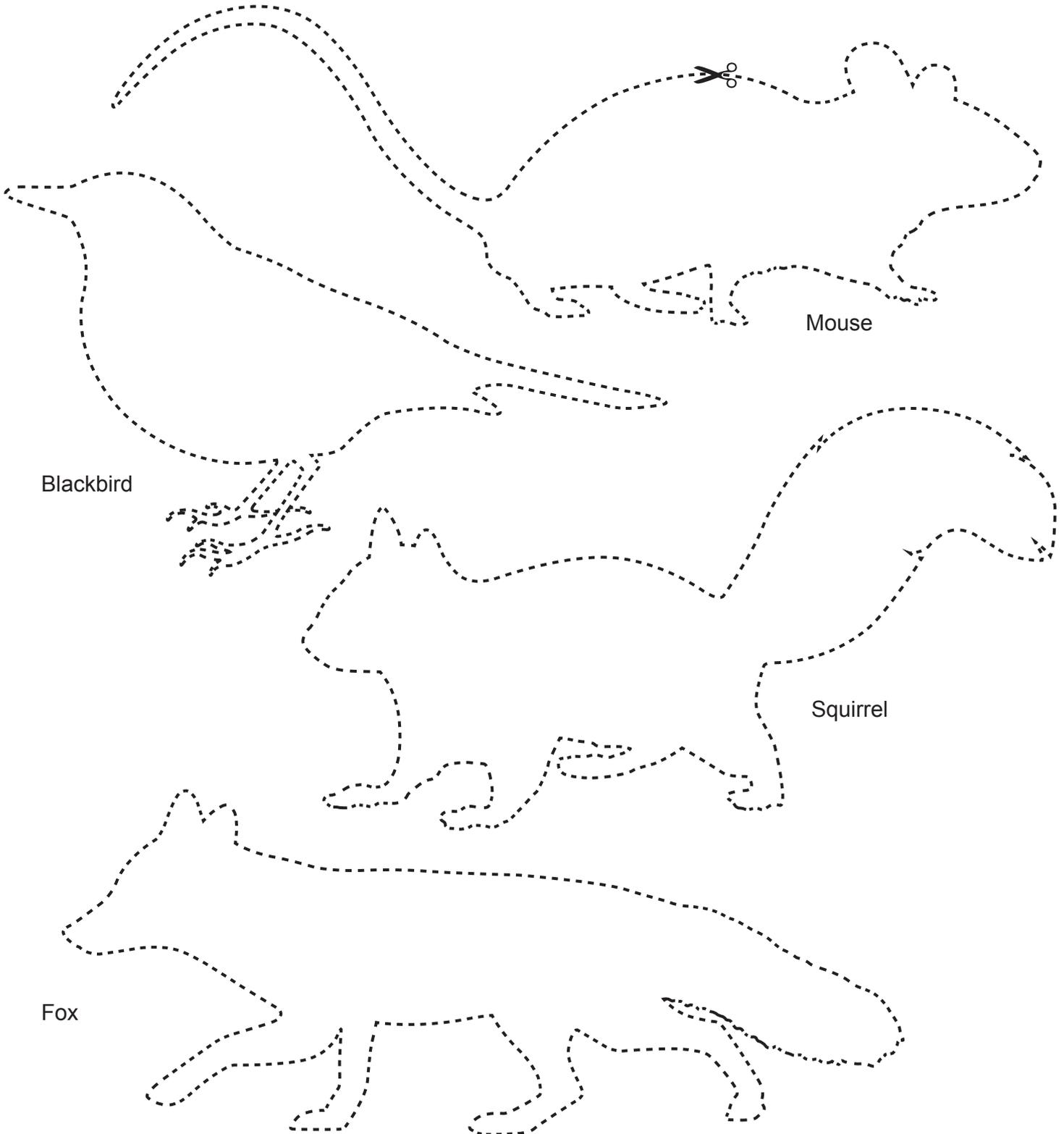


Shadow animals - sheet A

Use the cut-outs below to make some awesome animal shadow shapes!

Place your animal shapes, one by one, over your torch and point at a wall.

Can your partner guess what the animal is? Then swap with your partner.



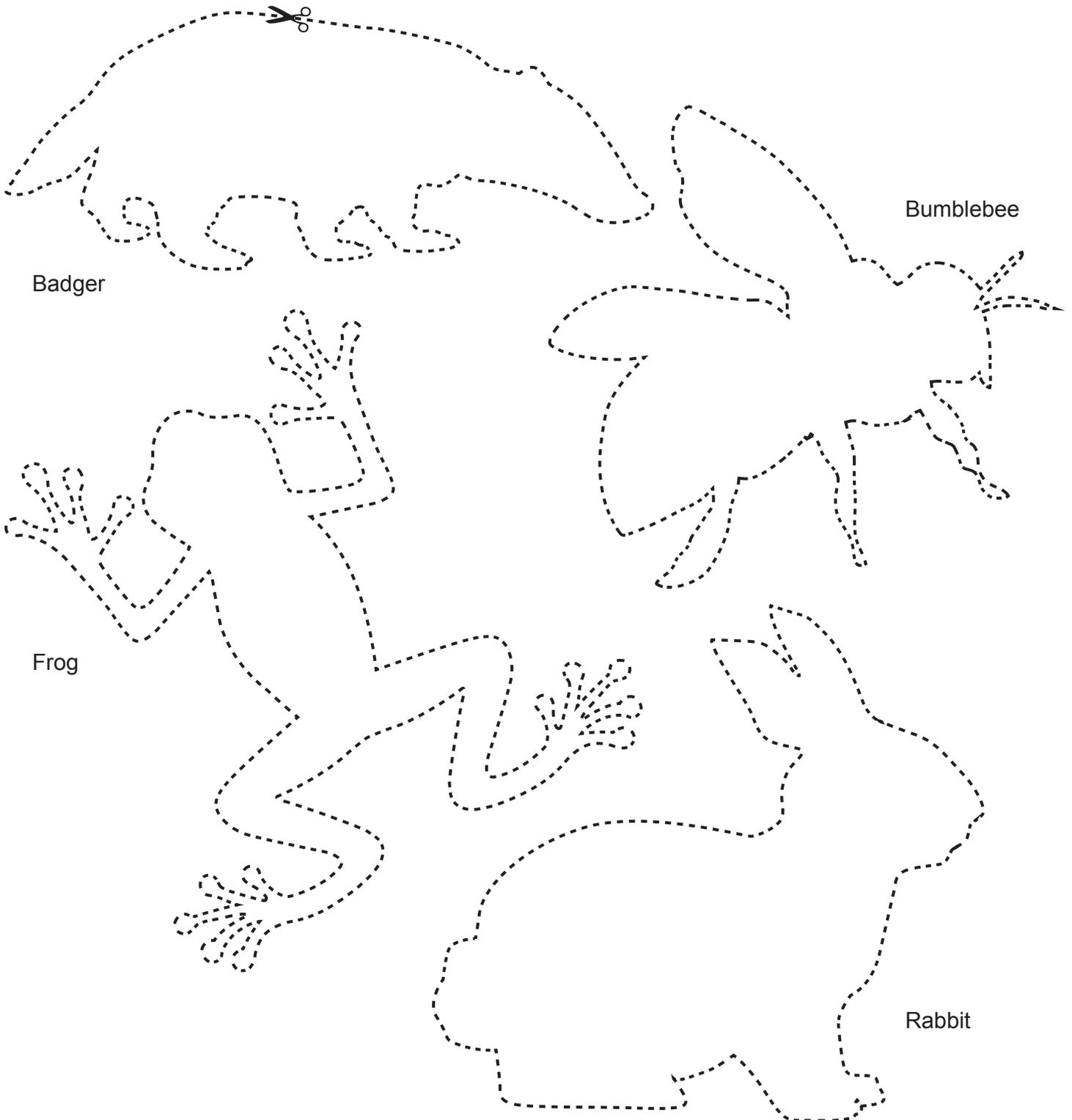


Shadow animals - sheet B

Use the cut-outs below to make some awesome animal shadow shapes!

Place your animal shapes, one by one, over your torch and point at a wall.

Can your partner guess what the animal is? Then swap with your partner.





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Minibeast bingo

Linked activity: 'Wildlife rules'

Time:

1 meeting

Who it's for:

5 to 10 year olds

You'll need:

'Minibeast bingo' sheet

What to do:

1. Arrange for a trip out in the local area. You could choose to visit woodland, a nature reserve or a local park.
2. Before you leave discuss the environment you are visiting. What animals do members expect to see during their trip?
3. Remind members that it's not just the bigger animals that share our natural spaces with us; there are lots of smaller creatures – minibeasts – such as insects, too. Give each member of the group a copy of the 'Minibeast bingo' sheet and ask them to tick off each one that they see during the trip. If outside space is at a premium, mark out 1sq ft transects with bamboo canes – it's amazing how much you can find in even this size space if you look long and hard enough...
4. Remind them that they should treat all animals with care and return any they pick up to where they found them. They could take their own 'wildlife rules' sheets with them as a reminder (see 'Wildlife rules' activity).
5. Talk about threats to the environment which might threaten any of the animals they have seen during their trip and what they could do to help.



Minibeast bingo

See how many different types of minibeasts you can find on your trip and cross them off the bingo card below as you go.

<p><small>© Chris Martin Bahr / WWF-Canon</small></p>  <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ladybird</p>	 <p><input type="checkbox"/> Centipede</p>	<p><small>© David Lawson / WWF-UK</small></p>  <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slug</p>	 <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ant</p>
 <p><input type="checkbox"/> Red ant</p>	 <p><input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper</p>	<p><small>© Global Warming Images / WWF-Canon</small></p>  <p><input type="checkbox"/> Moth</p>	<p><small>© Wild Wonders of Europe / Niall Benvie / WWF</small></p>  <p><input type="checkbox"/> Beetle</p>
<p><small>© Luca Scudiero / WWF-Italy</small></p>  <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterpillar</p>	 <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fly</p>	 <p><input type="checkbox"/> Spider</p>	<p><small>© Global Warming Images / WWF-Canon</small></p>  <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bee</p>
<p><small>© Fritz Pölkig / WWF</small></p>  <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dragonfly</p>	<p><small>© David Lawson / WWF-UK</small></p>  <p><input type="checkbox"/> Snail</p>	<p><small>© Global Warming Images / WWF-Canon</small></p>  <p><input type="checkbox"/> Butterfly</p>	 <p><input type="checkbox"/> Earwig</p>
 <p><input type="checkbox"/> Woodlouse</p>	 <p><input type="checkbox"/> Worm</p>	 <p><input type="checkbox"/> Aphid</p>	 <p><input type="checkbox"/> Wasp</p>



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PLANTS and ANIMALS

Who's at risk?

Time:

45 minutes

Who it's for:

5 to 10 year olds

You'll need:

- 'Who's at risk?' sheet
- 'Endangered animals fact cards'

What to do:

1. Discuss with the group what 'endangered' means, ie that a species is in danger of disappearing from our planet for good (becoming extinct).
2. Why do members think animals might become endangered? (e.g. destruction of habitat, hunting, not enough to eat etc.)
3. Gather everyone into the middle of the meeting space and designate one wall as the 'endangered species' side and the facing wall as 'not endangered'.
4. One by one, call out the animals from the 'Who's at risk?' sheet, taking animals from the 'Endangered' and 'Not endangered' lists in turn, and ask group members to decide whether the animal is endangered or not and run to the relevant wall. Give the right answer and share key facts about each endangered animal using the information on the sheet, before moving on to the next animal on the list.
5. Now hand out endangered animal fact cards to half the group, then pair each member with a non card-holder who has to try and guess which animal is on their partner's cards using just yes or no questions. Once they have guessed correctly, the pair should read the interesting facts about that animal.
6. At the end of the activity invite members to stand up and tell the group an interesting fact they have learnt about an endangered animal.



Who's at risk?

Endangered:



Black rhino

Key threats: Poaching for their horns which are often illegally sold for use in Chinese medicine



Bluefin tuna

Key threats: Overfishing. It's a very popular food in Japan where it fetches a huge price



Leatherback turtle

Key threats: Being caught in fisherman's nets; their nesting beaches are also in danger from development and tourists



Giant panda

Key threats: Destruction of their habitat meaning they have less available food



Snow leopard

Key threats: Being hunted for their fur; conflict with humans when snow leopards take livestock



Orang-utan

Key threats: Destruction of forest habitat to create palm plantations or farmland



Polar bear

Key threats: Climate change which means less polar ice for the bears to hunt on

NOT Endangered:



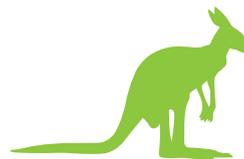
Leafcutter ant



Blackbird



Badger



Red kangaroo



Golden labrador



Cottonmouth snake



King penguin

Giant panda



© Bernard De Witter / WWF-Canon

POPULATION:
1,600 in the wild

WEIGHT:
85-125kg

HEIGHT:
Up to 170cm when standing

APPEARANCE:

They are covered in black and white fur which is thought to help them blend into the shaded forest which they live in. They have a special extended wrist bone which they can use as a thumb to help hold bamboo.

HABITAT:



Giant pandas live in bamboo forests high in the mountains of western China. They used to be found throughout the area but now they can only be found in six isolated mountain ranges in three provinces.

FAST FACT

A newborn panda cub is up to 1/900th the size of its mother!

FOOD:

Finding food

The giant panda eats the leaves, stems and shoots of over 60 different species of bamboo.

© Claire Doole / WWF-Canon



Diet

The bamboo which pandas eat contains very little nutritional value so they have to eat huge amounts to get enough energy. One giant panda can eat up to 60kg of bamboo in one day and spends about 12 hours a day feeding.

KEY THREATS:

Much of the bamboo forests which the giant panda relies on for food has been destroyed by humans in order to create farmland, build roads or build dams to generate electricity. As pandas need to eat so much bamboo to survive, each panda needs a large area of forest to survive.

Also as humans continue to cut down the bamboo we create small separated forests which means that pandas can be left isolated from others, making it more difficult for them to mate and find food.

WHAT IS WWF DOING?

WWF works with the Chinese government to deliver a National Conservation Programme for pandas. This programme has helped to introduce protected reserves which cover nearly half of panda habitat. Three quarters of wild pandas now live in nature reserves.



Sumatran tiger



© Freddy Mercay / WWF

POPULATION:

Around 450 remain in the wild

WEIGHT:

100-140kg(males)

HEIGHT:

Up to 60cm

LENGTH:

Up to 250cm

APPEARANCE:

© David Lawson / WWF-UK



Covered in dark orange fur with black stripes and a white underbelly. The pattern of stripes is different on every tiger.

The Sumatran tiger has a ruff of longer hair around its neck.

HABITAT:



This species can only be found in the wild on the Indonesian island of Sumatra where it lives in mountain and lowland forests and swamps.

FOOD:

Finding food

Tigers normally hunt alone using sight and sound as their main way to locate prey. They stalk their prey, waiting to get in to close proximity before killing with a bite to the back of the neck with their powerful jaws.

Diet

Tigers are at the top of the food chain and prefer to eat large mammals

KEY THREATS:

The biggest threat to the Sumatran tiger is habitat loss. A huge amount of the forest which they call home has been destroyed by logging or cleared for farm land or building settlements. Even the protected reserves are under threat from illegal logging.

As with other species of tigers another big threat is coming into conflict with humans. As their habitats are destroyed, and the amount of food reduces, tigers move into areas settled by humans and can start to take farm animals for food. Tigers can sometimes be killed by farmers or villagers trying to protect their livestock. Poaching is also a big problem with up to 40 Sumatran tigers killed per year for their skin and bones which are then sold.

The number of wild tigers has declined by 97% since the beginning of the last century.

**FAST
FACT**

WHAT IS WWF DOING?

WWF has worked with governments and other conservation organisations to declare the important Tesso Nilo area as a national park.

They are also helping to fight tiger poaching by teaching local police and law enforcement officials how to identify tiger parts for sale on the black market.



Bornean orang-utan



© Michel Terretaz / WWF-Canon

POPULATION:
55,000

WEIGHT:
60-90kg

HEIGHT:
Up to 137 cm

APPEARANCE:

These large apes have reddish brown fur. They have long arms (up to 1.5 metres long) and short, weak legs. Some males have unusual facial disks and a sack in their throat allowing them to make loud calls.

HABITAT:



They can only be found on the island of Borneo where they live in lowland forest. They particularly like to live in forests found in river valleys or flood basins.

FAST FACT

The orang-utan is also known as 'the man of the woods'.

FOOD:

Finding food

Orang-utans receive a lot of the water they need from the fruit they eat but also find extra water to drink from holes in trees.

Diet

About 60% of their diet comes from fruit but they also eat young leaves, shoots, insects and tree bark.

KEY THREATS:



© Rob Webster / WWF

Orang-utans in Borneo lost over 40,000km² of habitat between 1990-2004 – an area twice the size of Wales. Their habitat is often destroyed to clear land for oil palm plantations.

Orang-utans are often killed because they come into conflict with humans, particularly where they move in to oil palm plantations (because of their shrinking habitat) and destroy crops.

WHAT IS WWF DOING?

WWF has worked with the three governments which share Borneo to create an agreement to protect 22 million hectares of rainforest – known as the Heart of Borneo. This includes important habitat for orang-utans. They are also working with governments to help reduce the illegal trade in live orang-utans.



Leatherback turtle



© Jürgen Freund / WWF-Canon

POPULATION:
2,300

WEIGHT:
Up to 1,000kg

LENGTH:
Up to 160cm

APPEARANCE:

The leatherback is the largest marine turtle and one of the largest living reptiles. They have a dark, leathery looking ridged shell with white spots.

HABITAT:



Leatherbacks can be found in oceans throughout the world, except for the Arctic and Southern Oceans. Although they like to live in deep water, leatherbacks can travel huge distances in order to reach the right beach where they like to lay their eggs.

FAST FACT

The longest recorded migration of a leatherback turtle was a massive 13,000 miles - one way!

FOOD:

Finding food

They can dive very deep in order to find food. They can dive to depths of up to 1,200 metres which is much deeper than any other marine mammal.

Diet

They survive almost entirely on soft bodied animals like jellyfish and squid.

KEY THREATS:

© Ronald Petocz / WWF-Canon



One of the big threats for leatherback turtles is fishing. Many turtles are caught by mistake by fishermen who are trying to catch other species. Long line fishing, where the boat drags a long line with lots of hooks, is a particular problem for leatherbacks.

Poaching is also a serious threat with eggs often stolen from nests and sold as food or medicine. A report in 1983 stated that nearly 100% of the leatherback eggs in Thailand were stolen by poachers.

WHAT IS WWF DOING?

WWF is working to educate locals about the importance of protecting turtles and encouraging them to help protect their nests. They are also playing an active role in protecting nesting beaches and setting up sanctuaries and wildlife reserves. They are working with the fishing industry to introduce equipment which is safer for leatherback turtles, reducing the amount of turtles caught by mistake.



Tree kangaroo



© Brent Stirton / Getty Images

POPULATION:

There are 14 different subspecies, many of which are endangered

WEIGHT:

Up to 14kg

LENGTH:

41-77cm

TAIL LENGTH:

40-87cm

APPEARANCE:

Similar to a kangaroo but much smaller. Their arms and legs are roughly the same size (unlike a normal kangaroo which has much bigger legs). Different species have different colours and patterns on their fur.

HABITAT:



Tree kangaroos can be found on the island of New Guinea and parts of Australia where they live in tropical forests.

FAST FACT

The golden mantled tree kangaroo is now extinct in 95% of its previous habitat.

FOOD:



© Brent Stirton / Getty Images

Finding food

Tree kangaroos use their long tail to balance while climbing through the trees to find food. Their two front teeth are perfect for cutting leaves.

Diet

Tree kangaroos mainly eat fruit and nuts which they can find high in the trees. However they also sometimes eat eggs, small birds and even sap and bark.

KEY THREATS:

Lots of the forest where tree kangaroos live is being cut down, either to sell the wood or to clear space to grow coffee, rice or wheat. This destruction of the forest means that the tree kangaroos' habitat is shrinking and it is becoming more difficult for them to survive. Tree kangaroos are also hunted for food by many indigenous communities.

WHAT IS WWF DOING?

WWF is helping to protect the forests which tree kangaroos call home by supporting certification schemes such as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) which tell people whether wood has been taken from a sustainable source.



Black rhinoceros



© naturepl.com / Tony Heald / WWF-Canon

POPULATION:
Around 4,800

WEIGHT:
800-1,300kg

APPEARANCE:

The black rhino has a large horn at the front of the nose and a smaller horn just behind. Its skin can range from a dark yellow through to dark brown or grey.

HABITAT:



The black rhino lives in southern Africa; it can mostly be found in grasslands but sometimes also lives in deserts or mountain forests. Over 96% of black rhinos are found in South Africa, Namibia, Kenya and Zimbabwe.

FAST FACT

The rhino's horn is made from the same substance as human hair - keratin!

FOOD:



© Martin Harvey / WWF-Canon

Finding food

The black rhino has a special lip which it can use to grip on to food.

Diet

Woody twigs and plants. They especially like to eat the acacia tree, even the thorns!

KEY THREATS:

Rhinos used to be very common through all of southern Africa, but hunting meant that their numbers fell throughout the 20th century.

The main threat is now poaching with many rhinos killed for their horns which are ground and sold as medicine. A lot of poaching is now done by helicopter with gangs tracking and shooting the rhino from the air before landing. They use a chainsaw to remove the horn then fly away.

WHAT IS WWF DOING?

WWF is helping to set up more and better protected areas for rhinos and improve the management of existing areas. They are also helping to improve security to protect rhinos from poachers and helping authorities across the world to stop the trade in rhino horn and other illegal items.



Clouded leopard



© Alain Compost / WWF-Canon

POPULATION:
Fewer than 10,000

WEIGHT:
Up to 25kg

LENGTH:
60-90cm

APPEARANCE:

Clouded leopards have yellow fur with dark cloud shaped spots and two black lines on their neck. They have short legs and a tail which can be as long as their body – this helps them to balance when climbing trees.

HABITAT:



The clouded leopard is found across south-east Asia and the Himalayas. They spend most of their time in tropical rainforests but can also be found in mangrove swamps or dry tropical forests.

FAST FACT

Clouded leopard are expert climbers – they can climb while hanging upside-down under branches and even descend tree trunks head-first.

FOOD:



© David Lawson / WWF-UK

Finding food

Although they are great climbers scientists think that clouded leopards do most of their hunting on the ground.

Diet

Small mammals particularly deer, pigs and monkeys as well as smaller animals like squirrels or birds.

KEY THREATS:

The destruction of forests to create oil palm plantations in south-east Asia is a big problem for clouded leopards as it means they have less and less space to live and hunt.

Poaching is also a big problem; the clouded leopards' teeth, bones and skin are sold as medicine in many Asian countries. Clouded leopard meat has even appeared on the menu in expensive restaurants in Asian countries.

WHAT IS WWF DOING?

WWF is working throughout the clouded leopard's habitat to stop people cutting down its forest home. They are also working to stop poaching and the demand for leopard parts.



Blue whale



POPULATION:
Up to 4,500

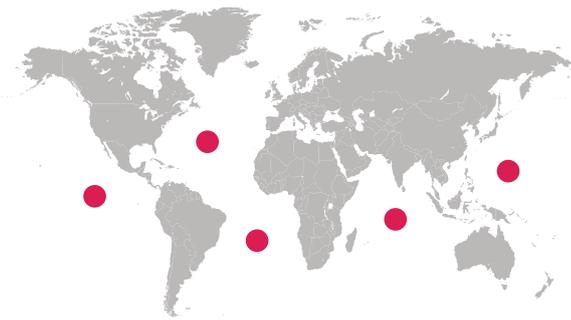
WEIGHT:
100-120 tonnes

LENGTH:
Around 26 metres

APPEARANCE:

This huge whale has blue grey skin with a light grey or yellow underside.

HABITAT:



Blue whales can be found in all oceans but they prefer deeper, colder waters. They normally travel to warmer waters to breed and give birth.

**FAST
FACT**

**The blue whale is the
largest animal in the world!**

FOOD:

Finding food

Whales catch krill by sucking in water and then pushing the water out through their teeth, capturing all of the small animals which were contained in the water and swallowing them.

Diet

Blue whales are the biggest animals on the planet but they survive by eating krill, tiny animals which float through the water. They need to eat about 3,600kg per day to get the energy they need!

KEY THREATS:

Climate change has meant that the amount of krill found in the oceans is decreasing. Blue whales rely on krill to survive so as the amount decreases it becomes more difficult for them to survive.

They are also affected by toxic materials getting in to the oceans and can sometimes become tangled up in fishing gear or get hit by ships.

WHAT IS WWF DOING?

WWF is working worldwide to raise awareness of climate change and its impact on many species. They are also working to encourage governments to create policies to protect whales.





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PLANTS and ANIMALS

Who's at risk?

Time:

45 minutes

Who it's for:

10+

You'll need:

- Post it notes
- 'Who's at risk?' sheet
- Paper, coloured pens and pencils
- Magazines including nature magazines
- 'Endangered animals fact cards'

What to do:

1. Before the session starts write the names of the animals from the 'Who's at risk?' sheet on a series of Post it notes.
2. Split the group into pairs and stick a Post it on everyone's forehead.
3. Working in their pairs, and using only yes or no answers to questions, members must work out which animal they are.
4. Once everyone has guessed ask the group to work out what links all these animals; explain that they are all endangered – they are at risk of extinction.
5. Discuss the different reasons why animals may become endangered and what we can do to help – shopping ethically, supporting charities, petitioning politicians etc.
6. Split the group into pairs and give each pair an endangered animal fact card which provides key facts and information on the difficulties that animal is facing.
7. Explain that they need to create a campaign poster to persuade people to take action to help protect their animal. Their posters should help people understand a bit about the animal, and why it is endangered, as well as what they can do to help. They should keep words to a minimum, relying on strong visual elements.



Who's at risk?

Endangered animals



Black rhino

Key threats: Poaching for their horns which are often illegally sold for use in Chinese medicine.



African elephant

Key threats: Poachers who hunt them for their ivory tusks.



Chimpanzee

Key threats: Habitat loss, poaching for the pet trade and bushmeat (for people to eat), and disease.



Bluefin tuna

Key threats: Overfishing. It's a very popular food in Japan where it fetches a huge price.



Leatherback turtle

Key threats: Being caught in fisherman's nets; their nesting beaches are also in danger from development and tourists.



Giant panda

Key threats: Destruction of their habitat meaning they have less available food.



Snow leopard

Key threats: Being hunted for their fur; conflict with humans when snow leopards take livestock.



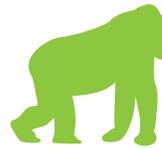
Orang-utan

Key threats: Destruction of forest habitat to create palm plantations or farmland.



Polar bear

Key threats: Climate change which means less polar ice for the bears to hunt on.



Mountain gorilla

Key threats: Forests are being cut down to supply wood for the illegal timber trade and to make room for new settlements. People also take wood for fuel and to make charcoal illegally.



African lion

Key threats: Hunting (mostly when people hunt them to protect their families and livestock), loss of prey and habitat loss.



Adelie penguin

Key threats: The effects of climate change are having an impact on their habitat as the sea ice they depend on for food is melting.



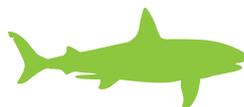
Narwhal

Key threats: Unsustainable hunting, climate change and industrial activity.



Walrus

Key threats: Climate change which is melting the floating ice on which they depend for breeding and raising their young.



Basking Shark

Key threats: Hunting for their fins which are used in shark fin soup – a delicacy in some parts of the Far East.

Giant panda



© Bernard De Witter / WWF-Canon

POPULATION:
1,600 in the wild

WEIGHT:
85-125kg

HEIGHT:
Up to 170cm when standing

APPEARANCE:

They are covered in black and white fur which is thought to help them blend into the shaded forest which they live in. They have a special extended wrist bone which they can use as a thumb to help hold bamboo.

HABITAT:



Giant pandas live in bamboo forests high in the mountains of western China. They used to be found throughout the area but now they can only be found in six isolated mountain ranges in three provinces.

FAST FACT

A newborn panda cub is up to 1/900th the size of its mother!

FOOD:

Finding food

The giant panda eats the leaves, stems and shoots of over 60 different species of bamboo.

© Claire Doole / WWF-Canon



Diet

The bamboo which pandas eat contains very little nutritional value so they have to eat huge amounts to get enough energy. One giant panda can eat up to 60kg of bamboo in one day and spends about 12 hours a day feeding.

KEY THREATS:

Much of the bamboo forests which the giant panda relies on for food has been destroyed by humans in order to create farmland, build roads or build dams to generate electricity. As pandas need to eat so much bamboo to survive, each panda needs a large area of forest to survive.

Also as humans continue to cut down the bamboo we create small separated forests which means that pandas can be left isolated from others, making it more difficult for them to mate and find food.

WHAT IS WWF DOING?

WWF works with the Chinese government to deliver a National Conservation Programme for pandas. This programme has helped to introduce protected reserves which cover nearly half of panda habitat. Three quarters of wild pandas now live in nature reserves.



Sumatran tiger



© Freddy Mercay / WWF

POPULATION:

Around 450 remain in the wild

WEIGHT:

100-140kg(males)

HEIGHT:

Up to 60cm

LENGTH:

Up to 250cm

APPEARANCE:

© David Lawson / WWF-UK



Covered in dark orange fur with black stripes and a white underbelly. The pattern of stripes is different on every tiger.

The Sumatran tiger has a ruff of longer hair around its neck.

HABITAT:



This species can only be found in the wild on the Indonesian island of Sumatra where it lives in mountain and lowland forests and swamps.

FOOD:

Finding food

Tigers normally hunt alone using sight and sound as their main way to locate prey. They stalk their prey, waiting to get in to close proximity before killing with a bite to the back of the neck with their powerful jaws.

Diet

Tigers are at the top of the food chain and prefer to eat large mammals

KEY THREATS:

The biggest threat to the Sumatran tiger is habitat loss. A huge amount of the forest which they call home has been destroyed by logging or cleared for farm land or building settlements. Even the protected reserves are under threat from illegal logging.

As with other species of tigers another big threat is coming into conflict with humans. As their habitats are destroyed, and the amount of food reduces, tigers move into areas settled by humans and can start to take farm animals for food. Tigers can sometimes be killed by farmers or villagers trying to protect their livestock. Poaching is also a big problem with up to 40 Sumatran tigers killed per year for their skin and bones which are then sold.

The number of wild tigers has declined by 97% since the beginning of the last century.

**FAST
FACT**

WHAT IS WWF DOING?

WWF has worked with governments and other conservation organisations to declare the important Tesso Nilo area as a national park.

They are also helping to fight tiger poaching by teaching local police and law enforcement officials how to identify tiger parts for sale on the black market.



Bornean orang-utan



© Michel Terretaz / WWF-Canon

POPULATION:
55,000

WEIGHT:
60-90kg

HEIGHT:
Up to 137 cm

APPEARANCE:

These large apes have reddish brown fur. They have long arms (up to 1.5 metres long) and short, weak legs. Some males have unusual facial disks and a sack in their throat allowing them to make loud calls.

HABITAT:



They can only be found on the island of Borneo where they live in lowland forest. They particularly like to live in forests found in river valleys or flood basins.

**FAST
FACT**

The orang-utan is also known as 'the man of the woods'.

FOOD:

Finding food

Orang-utans receive a lot of the water they need from the fruit they eat but also find extra water to drink from holes in trees.

Diet

About 60% of their diet comes from fruit but they also eat young leaves, shoots, insects and tree bark.

KEY THREATS:



© Rob Webster / WWF

Orang-utans in Borneo lost over 40,000km² of habitat between 1990-2004 – an area twice the size of Wales. Their habitat is often destroyed to clear land for oil palm plantations.

Orang-utans are often killed because they come into conflict with humans, particularly where they move in to oil palm plantations (because of their shrinking habitat) and destroy crops.

WHAT IS WWF DOING?

WWF has worked with the three governments which share Borneo to create an agreement to protect 22 million hectares of rainforest – known as the Heart of Borneo. This includes important habitat for orang-utans. They are also working with governments to help reduce the illegal trade in live orang-utans.



Leatherback turtle



© Jürgen Freund / WWF-Canon

POPULATION:
2,300

WEIGHT:
Up to 1,000kg

LENGTH:
Up to 160cm

APPEARANCE:

The leatherback is the largest marine turtle and one of the largest living reptiles. They have a dark, leathery looking ridged shell with white spots.

HABITAT:



Leatherbacks can be found in oceans throughout the world, except for the Arctic and Southern Oceans. Although they like to live in deep water, leatherbacks can travel huge distances in order to reach the right beach where they like to lay their eggs.

FAST FACT

The longest recorded migration of a leatherback turtle was a massive 13,000 miles - one way!

FOOD:

Finding food

They can dive very deep in order to find food. They can dive to depths of up to 1,200 metres which is much deeper than any other marine mammal.

Diet

They survive almost entirely on soft bodied animals like jellyfish and squid.

KEY THREATS:

© Ronald Petocz / WWF-Canon



One of the big threats for leatherback turtles is fishing. Many turtles are caught by mistake by fishermen who are trying

to catch other species. Long line fishing, where the boat drags a long line with lots of hooks, is a particular problem for leatherbacks.

Poaching is also a serious threat with eggs often stolen from nests and sold as food or medicine. A report in 1983 stated that nearly 100% of the leatherback eggs in Thailand were stolen by poachers.

WHAT IS WWF DOING?

WWF is working to educate locals about the importance of protecting turtles and encouraging them to help protect their nests. They are also playing an active role in protecting nesting beaches and setting up sanctuaries and wildlife reserves. They are working with the fishing industry to introduce equipment which is safer for leatherback turtles, reducing the amount of turtles caught by mistake.



Tree kangaroo



© Brent Stirton / Getty Images

POPULATION:

There are 14 different subspecies, many of which are endangered

WEIGHT:

Up to 14kg

LENGTH:

41-77cm

TAIL LENGTH:

40-87cm

APPEARANCE:

Similar to a kangaroo but much smaller. Their arms and legs are roughly the same size (unlike a normal kangaroo which has much bigger legs). Different species have different colours and patterns on their fur.

HABITAT:



Tree kangaroos can be found on the island of New Guinea and parts of Australia where they live in tropical forests.

FAST FACT

The golden mantled tree kangaroo is now extinct in 95% of its previous habitat.

FOOD:



© Brent Stirton / Getty Images

Finding food

Tree kangaroos use their long tail to balance while climbing through the trees to find food. Their two front teeth are perfect for cutting leaves.

Diet

Tree kangaroos mainly eat fruit and nuts which they can find high in the trees. However they also sometimes eat eggs, small birds and even sap and bark.

KEY THREATS:

Lots of the forest where tree kangaroos live is being cut down, either to sell the wood or to clear space to grow coffee, rice or wheat. This destruction of the forest means that the tree kangaroos' habitat is shrinking and it is becoming more difficult for them to survive. Tree kangaroos are also hunted for food by many indigenous communities.

WHAT IS WWF DOING?

WWF is helping to protect the forests which tree kangaroos call home by supporting certification schemes such as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) which tell people whether wood has been taken from a sustainable source.



Black rhinoceros



© naturepl.com / Tony Heald / WWF-Canon

POPULATION:
Around 4,800

WEIGHT:
800-1,300kg

APPEARANCE:

The black rhino has a large horn at the front of the nose and a smaller horn just behind. Its skin can range from a dark yellow through to dark brown or grey.

HABITAT:



The black rhino lives in southern Africa; it can mostly be found in grasslands but sometimes also lives in deserts or mountain forests. Over 96% of black rhinos are found in South Africa, Namibia, Kenya and Zimbabwe.

FAST FACT

The rhino's horn is made from the same substance as human hair - keratin!

FOOD:



© Martin Harvey / WWF-Canon

Finding food

The black rhino has a special lip which it can use to grip on to food.

Diet

Woody twigs and plants. They especially like to eat the acacia tree, even the thorns!

KEY THREATS:

Rhinos used to be very common through all of southern Africa, but hunting meant that their numbers fell throughout the 20th century.

The main threat is now poaching with many rhinos killed for their horns which are ground and sold as medicine. A lot of poaching is now done by helicopter with gangs tracking and shooting the rhino from the air before landing. They use a chainsaw to remove the horn then fly away.

WHAT IS WWF DOING?

WWF is helping to set up more and better protected areas for rhinos and improve the management of existing areas. They are also helping to improve security to protect rhinos from poachers and helping authorities across the world to stop the trade in rhino horn and other illegal items.



Clouded leopard



© Alain Compost / WWF-Canon

POPULATION:
Fewer than 10,000

WEIGHT:
Up to 25kg

LENGTH:
60-90cm

APPEARANCE:

Clouded leopards have yellow fur with dark cloud shaped spots and two black lines on their neck. They have short legs and a tail which can be as long as their body – this helps them to balance when climbing trees.

HABITAT:



The clouded leopard is found across south-east Asia and the Himalayas. They spend most of their time in tropical rainforests but can also be found in mangrove swamps or dry tropical forests.

FAST FACT

Clouded leopard are expert climbers – they can climb while hanging upside-down under branches and even descend tree trunks head-first.

FOOD:



© David Lawson / WWF-UK

Finding food

Although they are great climbers scientists think that clouded leopards do most of their hunting on the ground.

Diet

Small mammals particularly deer, pigs and monkeys as well as smaller animals like squirrels or birds.

KEY THREATS:

The destruction of forests to create oil palm plantations in south-east Asia is a big problem for clouded leopards as it means they have less and less space to live and hunt.

Poaching is also a big problem; the clouded leopards' teeth, bones and skin are sold as medicine in many Asian countries. Clouded leopard meat has even appeared on the menu in expensive restaurants in Asian countries.

WHAT IS WWF DOING?

WWF is working throughout the clouded leopard's habitat to stop people cutting down its forest home. They are also working to stop poaching and the demand for leopard parts.



Blue whale



© naturepl.com / David Fleetham / WWF-Canon

POPULATION:
Up to 4,500

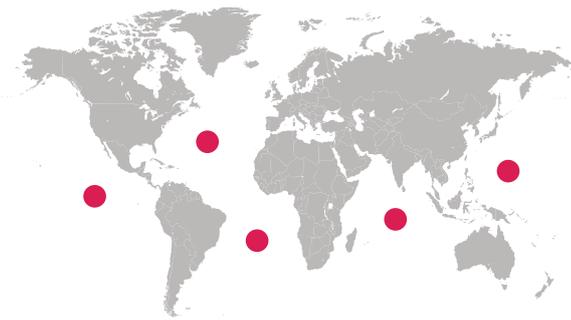
WEIGHT:
100-120 tonnes

LENGTH:
Around 26 metres

APPEARANCE:

This huge whale has blue grey skin with a light grey or yellow underside.

HABITAT:



Blue whales can be found in all oceans but they prefer deeper, colder waters. They normally travel to warmer waters to breed and give birth.

**FAST
FACT**

**The blue whale is the
largest animal in the world!**

FOOD:

Finding food

Whales catch krill by sucking in water and then pushing the water out through their teeth, capturing all of the small animals which were contained in the water and swallowing them.

Diet

Blue whales are the biggest animals on the planet but they survive by eating krill, tiny animals which float through the water. They need to eat about 3,600kg per day to get the energy they need!

KEY THREATS:

Climate change has meant that the amount of krill found in the oceans is decreasing. Blue whales rely on krill to survive so as the amount decreases it becomes more difficult for them to survive.

They are also affected by toxic materials getting in to the oceans and can sometimes become tangled up in fishing gear or get hit by ships.

WHAT IS WWF DOING?

WWF is working worldwide to raise awareness of climate change and its impact on many species. They are also working to encourage governments to create policies to protect whales.





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PLANTS and ANIMALS

Endangered animal pictictionary

Time:

20 minutes

Who it's for:

10+

You'll need:

- Whiteboard / flipchart
- Pens
- 'Endangered animals fact cards'

What to do:

1. Ask for a volunteer to come to the front of the group. Show them one of the endangered animals fact cards and ask them to draw that animal.
2. The rest of the group must guess what animal they are drawing. The first person to guess correctly takes over drawing the next animal.
3. Before starting to draw the next animal discuss why the first animal might be endangered.
4. Write a five point list outlining some practical changes everyone can make to help protect endangered species.

Giant panda



© Bernard De Witter / WWF-Canon

POPULATION:
1,600 in the wild

WEIGHT:
85-125kg

HEIGHT:
Up to 170cm when standing

APPEARANCE:

They are covered in black and white fur which is thought to help them blend into the shaded forest which they live in. They have a special extended wrist bone which they can use as a thumb to help hold bamboo.

HABITAT:



Giant pandas live in bamboo forests high in the mountains of western China. They used to be found throughout the area but now they can only be found in six isolated mountain ranges in three provinces.

FAST FACT

A newborn panda cub is up to 1/900th the size of its mother!

FOOD:

Finding food

The giant panda eats the leaves, stems and shoots of over 60 different species of bamboo.

© Claire Doole / WWF-Canon



Diet

The bamboo which pandas eat contains very little nutritional value so they have to eat huge amounts to get enough energy. One giant panda can eat up to 60kg of bamboo in one day and spends about 12 hours a day feeding.

KEY THREATS:

Much of the bamboo forests which the giant panda relies on for food has been destroyed by humans in order to create farmland, build roads or build dams to generate electricity. As pandas need to eat so much bamboo to survive, each panda needs a large area of forest to survive.

Also as humans continue to cut down the bamboo we create small separated forests which means that pandas can be left isolated from others, making it more difficult for them to mate and find food.

WHAT IS WWF DOING?

WWF works with the Chinese government to deliver a National Conservation Programme for pandas. This programme has helped to introduce protected reserves which cover nearly half of panda habitat. Three quarters of wild pandas now live in nature reserves.



Sumatran tiger



© Freddy Mercay / WWF

POPULATION:

Around 450 remain in the wild

WEIGHT:

100-140kg(males)

HEIGHT:

Up to 60cm

LENGTH:

Up to 250cm

APPEARANCE:

© David Lawson / WWF-UK



Covered in dark orange fur with black stripes and a white underbelly. The pattern of stripes is different on every tiger.

The Sumatran tiger has a ruff of longer hair around its neck.

HABITAT:



This species can only be found in the wild on the Indonesian island of Sumatra where it lives in mountain and lowland forests and swamps.

FOOD:

Finding food

Tigers normally hunt alone using sight and sound as their main way to locate prey. They stalk their prey, waiting to get in to close proximity before killing with a bite to the back of the neck with their powerful jaws.

Diet

Tigers are at the top of the food chain and prefer to eat large mammals

KEY THREATS:

The biggest threat to the Sumatran tiger is habitat loss. A huge amount of the forest which they call home has been destroyed by logging or cleared for farm land or building settlements. Even the protected reserves are under threat from illegal logging.

As with other species of tigers another big threat is coming into conflict with humans. As their habitats are destroyed, and the amount of food reduces, tigers move into areas settled by humans and can start to take farm animals for food. Tigers can sometimes be killed by farmers or villagers trying to protect their livestock. Poaching is also a big problem with up to 40 Sumatran tigers killed per year for their skin and bones which are then sold.

The number of wild tigers has declined by 97% since the beginning of the last century.

**FAST
FACT**

WHAT IS WWF DOING?

WWF has worked with governments and other conservation organisations to declare the important Tesso Nilo area as a national park.

They are also helping to fight tiger poaching by teaching local police and law enforcement officials how to identify tiger parts for sale on the black market.



Bornean orang-utan



© Michel Terretaz / WWF-Canon

POPULATION:
55,000

WEIGHT:
60-90kg

HEIGHT:
Up to 137 cm

APPEARANCE:

These large apes have reddish brown fur. They have long arms (up to 1.5 metres long) and short, weak legs. Some males have unusual facial disks and a sack in their throat allowing them to make loud calls.

HABITAT:



They can only be found on the island of Borneo where they live in lowland forest. They particularly like to live in forests found in river valleys or flood basins.

**FAST
FACT**

The orang-utan is also known as 'the man of the woods'.

FOOD:

Finding food

Orang-utans receive a lot of the water they need from the fruit they eat but also find extra water to drink from holes in trees.

Diet

About 60% of their diet comes from fruit but they also eat young leaves, shoots, insects and tree bark.

KEY THREATS:



© Rob Webster / WWF

Orang-utans in Borneo lost over 40,000km² of habitat between 1990-2004 – an area twice the size of Wales. Their habitat is often destroyed to clear land for oil palm plantations.

Orang-utans are often killed because they come into conflict with humans, particularly where they move in to oil palm plantations (because of their shrinking habitat) and destroy crops.

WHAT IS WWF DOING?

WWF has worked with the three governments which share Borneo to create an agreement to protect 22 million hectares of rainforest – known as the Heart of Borneo. This includes important habitat for orang-utans. They are also working with governments to help reduce the illegal trade in live orang-utans.



Leatherback turtle



© Jürgen Freund / WWF-Canon

POPULATION:
2,300

WEIGHT:
Up to 1,000kg

LENGTH:
Up to 160cm

APPEARANCE:

The leatherback is the largest marine turtle and one of the largest living reptiles. They have a dark, leathery looking ridged shell with white spots.

HABITAT:



Leatherbacks can be found in oceans throughout the world, except for the Arctic and Southern Oceans. Although they like to live in deep water, leatherbacks can travel huge distances in order to reach the right beach where they like to lay their eggs.

FAST FACT

The longest recorded migration of a leatherback turtle was a massive 13,000 miles - one way!

FOOD:

Finding food

They can dive very deep in order to find food. They can dive to depths of up to 1,200 metres which is much deeper than any other marine mammal.

Diet

They survive almost entirely on soft bodied animals like jellyfish and squid.

KEY THREATS:

© Ronald Petocz / WWF-Canon



One of the big threats for leatherback turtles is fishing. Many turtles are caught by mistake by fishermen who are trying

to catch other species. Long line fishing, where the boat drags a long line with lots of hooks, is a particular problem for leatherbacks.

Poaching is also a serious threat with eggs often stolen from nests and sold as food or medicine. A report in 1983 stated that nearly 100% of the leatherback eggs in Thailand were stolen by poachers.

WHAT IS WWF DOING?

WWF is working to educate locals about the importance of protecting turtles and encouraging them to help protect their nests. They are also playing an active role in protecting nesting beaches and setting up sanctuaries and wildlife reserves. They are working with the fishing industry to introduce equipment which is safer for leatherback turtles, reducing the amount of turtles caught by mistake.



Tree kangaroo



© Brent Stirton / Getty Images

POPULATION:

There are 14 different subspecies, many of which are endangered

WEIGHT:

Up to 14kg

LENGTH:

41-77cm

TAIL LENGTH:

40-87cm

APPEARANCE:

Similar to a kangaroo but much smaller. Their arms and legs are roughly the same size (unlike a normal kangaroo which has much bigger legs). Different species have different colours and patterns on their fur.

HABITAT:



Tree kangaroos can be found on the island of New Guinea and parts of Australia where they live in tropical forests.

FAST FACT

The golden mantled tree kangaroo is now extinct in 95% of its previous habitat.

FOOD:



© Brent Stirton / Getty Images

Finding food

Tree kangaroos use their long tail to balance while climbing through the trees to find food. Their two front teeth are perfect for cutting leaves.

Diet

Tree kangaroos mainly eat fruit and nuts which they can find high in the trees. However they also sometimes eat eggs, small birds and even sap and bark.

KEY THREATS:

Lots of the forest where tree kangaroos live is being cut down, either to sell the wood or to clear space to grow coffee, rice or wheat. This destruction of the forest means that the tree kangaroos' habitat is shrinking and it is becoming more difficult for them to survive. Tree kangaroos are also hunted for food by many indigenous communities.

WHAT IS WWF DOING?

WWF is helping to protect the forests which tree kangaroos call home by supporting certification schemes such as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) which tell people whether wood has been taken from a sustainable source.



Black rhinoceros



© naturepl.com / Tony Heald / WWF-Canon

POPULATION:
Around 4,800

WEIGHT:
800-1,300kg

APPEARANCE:

The black rhino has a large horn at the front of the nose and a smaller horn just behind. Its skin can range from a dark yellow through to dark brown or grey.

HABITAT:



The black rhino lives in southern Africa; it can mostly be found in grasslands but sometimes also lives in deserts or mountain forests. Over 96% of black rhinos are found in South Africa, Namibia, Kenya and Zimbabwe.

FAST FACT

The rhino's horn is made from the same substance as human hair - keratin!

FOOD:



© Martin Harvey / WWF-Canon

Finding food

The black rhino has a special lip which it can use to grip on to food.

Diet

Woody twigs and plants. They especially like to eat the acacia tree, even the thorns!

KEY THREATS:

Rhinos used to be very common through all of southern Africa, but hunting meant that their numbers fell throughout the 20th century.

The main threat is now poaching with many rhinos killed for their horns which are ground and sold as medicine. A lot of poaching is now done by helicopter with gangs tracking and shooting the rhino from the air before landing. They use a chainsaw to remove the horn then fly away.

WHAT IS WWF DOING?

WWF is helping to set up more and better protected areas for rhinos and improve the management of existing areas. They are also helping to improve security to protect rhinos from poachers and helping authorities across the world to stop the trade in rhino horn and other illegal items.



Clouded leopard



© Alain Compost / WWF-Canon

POPULATION:
Fewer than 10,000

WEIGHT:
Up to 25kg

LENGTH:
60-90cm

APPEARANCE:

Clouded leopards have yellow fur with dark cloud shaped spots and two black lines on their neck. They have short legs and a tail which can be as long as their body – this helps them to balance when climbing trees.

HABITAT:



The clouded leopard is found across south-east Asia and the Himalayas. They spend most of their time in tropical rainforests but can also be found in mangrove swamps or dry tropical forests.

FAST FACT

Clouded leopard are expert climbers – they can climb while hanging upside-down under branches and even descend tree trunks head-first.

FOOD:



© David Lawson / WWF-UK

Finding food

Although they are great climbers scientists think that clouded leopards do most of their hunting on the ground.

Diet

Small mammals particularly deer, pigs and monkeys as well as smaller animals like squirrels or birds.

KEY THREATS:

The destruction of forests to create oil palm plantations in south-east Asia is a big problem for clouded leopards as it means they have less and less space to live and hunt.

Poaching is also a big problem; the clouded leopards' teeth, bones and skin are sold as medicine in many Asian countries. Clouded leopard meat has even appeared on the menu in expensive restaurants in Asian countries.

WHAT IS WWF DOING?

WWF is working throughout the clouded leopard's habitat to stop people cutting down its forest home. They are also working to stop poaching and the demand for leopard parts.



Blue whale



© naturepl.com / David Fleetham / WWF-Canon

POPULATION:
Up to 4,500

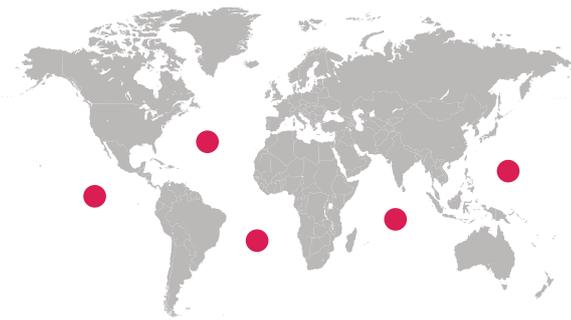
WEIGHT:
100-120 tonnes

LENGTH:
Around 26 metres

APPEARANCE:

This huge whale has blue grey skin with a light grey or yellow underside.

HABITAT:



Blue whales can be found in all oceans but they prefer deeper, colder waters. They normally travel to warmer waters to breed and give birth.

**FAST
FACT**

**The blue whale is the
largest animal in the world!**

FOOD:

Finding food

Whales catch krill by sucking in water and then pushing the water out through their teeth, capturing all of the small animals which were contained in the water and swallowing them.

Diet

Blue whales are the biggest animals on the planet but they survive by eating krill, tiny animals which float through the water. They need to eat about 3,600kg per day to get the energy they need!

KEY THREATS:

Climate change has meant that the amount of krill found in the oceans is decreasing. Blue whales rely on krill to survive so as the amount decreases it becomes more difficult for them to survive.

They are also affected by toxic materials getting in to the oceans and can sometimes become tangled up in fishing gear or get hit by ships.

WHAT IS WWF DOING?

WWF is working worldwide to raise awareness of climate change and its impact on many species. They are also working to encourage governments to create policies to protect whales.





Get informed

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PLANTS and ANIMALS

Global threats twister

Time:

15 minutes

Who it's for:

10+

You'll need:

- World map (1 per group)
- 'Global threats twister' cards (1 set for each group)
- 'Twister' game mat and spinner

What to do:

1. Lay the mat flat on the floor and ask the first member of the group to pick up a card: each card gives a place and refers to an environment and/or species which is under threat there. The card indicates the colour to use on the mat.
2. The player should identify where that environment can be found and place the card on the world map. If they are correct they spin the twister spinner to find the body part to place on the mat. The process is repeated until all the cards have run out or someone falls over!
3. For a tie break – ask members to name as many animals as possible from each environment.
4. Discuss the effects which the damage to that environment could have on the animals which live there, or even on the rest of the world (for example melting ice caps). Talk about the knock-on effect which the extinction of a species can have.



Global threats twister

Cut these cards out before starting the game.



The Arctic

Climate change means that more sea ice is melting each summer making life more difficult for polar bears.



China

Bamboo forests, home to the giant panda, are being destroyed and segmented in order to build railway lines and roads.



Mexico

Development of tourist facilities around Mexico's beaches are affecting the traditional nesting sites of the green turtle.



Papua New Guinea

Destruction of Papua New Guinea's forest is making tree kangaroos more vulnerable to hunting and destroying their natural habitat.



Spain

Iberian lynx live in a range of habitats including Mediterranean woodland. Habitat destruction and lack of prey means that they are reduced to only 270 adults in the wild.



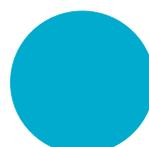
Russian coast

Western gray whales feed during the summer in Russian waters then migrate south to breed. Their numbers are down to 130 and they are at risk from noise disturbance from oil and gas development, entanglement in fishing gear, being struck by ships, and pollution.



Indonesia

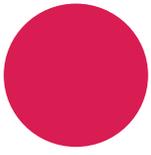
The rainforest in Indonesia, home to orang-utans, is being destroyed to create agricultural land and oil palm plantations.



India

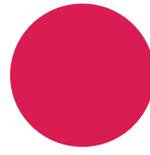
The Ganges river is one of the most polluted in the world. This pollution has a direct effect on the rare Ganges river dolphin which relies on the river for its food.

GREEN AMBASSADORS 4 Youth



Democratic Republic of Congo

Oil companies want to start exploring the Virunga National Park for potential drilling sites. This could be very bad news for the critically endangered mountain gorillas which live there.



Sumatra

Sumatra's Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park has one of the largest populations of the critically endangered Sumatran rhinos. However illegal settlers are converting forest for rice and coffee fields.



Sumatra

Deforestation means that the dense forest that Sumatran tigers need to survive is shrinking. They are also hunted by poachers who want to sell their parts on the black market.



India

The clearing of land for agriculture and housing is fragmenting the Bengal tiger's habitat, making it more difficult for tigers to find prey and mate and forcing them into more contact with humans.



Democratic Republic of Congo

The DRC's forests are being affected by 'slash and burn' agriculture which is reducing the only habitat of our close cousin the bonobo.



Kenya

The main threats to lions in the Mara are conflict with people, a reduction in the number of their natural prey due to land being cleared for agriculture, and loss and damage of habitat due to the overgrazing of domestic livestock.



Europe - Atlantic coast

The enormous fins of the basking shark are valuable to the shark fin soup trade. The sale of basking shark products has been illegal in Europe since 2007, but basking sharks continue to be illegally landed along the Atlantic coast of the continent, probably in small numbers.



Europe

The European otter is suffering due to habitat loss caused by the creation of canals, draining of wetlands and the removal of riverside vegetation.



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PLANTS and ANIMALS

Wildlife spotter trip

Time:

2 hours

Who it's for:

10+

You'll need:

'Wildlife spotter' sheet

What to do:

1. Organise a trip to a local woodland or nature reserve.
2. Before you leave discuss the environment you are visiting and think about what animals it is suited to. What animals do members expect to see during their trip?
3. Hand out a copy of the wildlife spotter sheets to each member and ask them to tick off each animal they see during their trip.
4. Which animals did they find were very common and which were more difficult to find?
5. If they didn't see a particular animal listed on their sheet, did they still know they were about? How? (eg musty smell – fox; beautiful song – nightingale)
6. Talk about threats to the environment which might threaten any of the animals they have seen during their trip.



Wildlife spotter trip

Our countryside is full of amazing animals! See how many you can identify using our wildlife spotter sheet. You can tick them off as you go to help you remember what you have seen.

Birds



Chaffinch



Robin



Wood pigeon



Blackbird



Great tit



Swallow



Wren



Nightingale

Mammals

© David Lawson / WWF-UK



Fox



Rabbit



Hare



Grey squirrel



Vole



Hedgehog



Badger



Mole

© David Lawson / WWF-UK

© Anton Vorauer / WWF-Canon

© Global Warming Images / WWF-Canon



Wildlife spotter trip

Insects

© Fritz Pölking / WWF



Dragonfly

© Global Warming Images / WWF-Canon



Butterfly

© Chris Martin Bahr / WWF-Canon



Ladybird



Woodlouse

© Global Warming Images / WWF-Canon



Bee



Cricket

© Wild Wonders of Europe /Niall Bervie / WWF



Beetle

Amphibians / reptiles

© David Lawson / WWF-UK



Frog



Newt

© David Lawson / WWF-UK



Toad

© Anton Vorauer / WWF-Canon



Snake



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PLANTS and ANIMALS

Expert Q&A

Time:

1 hour

Who it's for:

All ages

You'll need:

Volunteer 'experts'

What to do:

1. Ask a few animal experts to come in and give a presentation on how they care for their animals.
2. They could cover top tips, any equipment they use and things to think about before getting a pet.
3. Invite members to come up to the front and add any hints or tips of their own.
4. If you can contact a number of different experts you could run the activity as a carousel with the experts spread out around the room, able to take questions as members move around the room.
5. If you have any keen pet keepers in your group, they could also be invited to give their own top tips for happy, healthy pets.

Top tip - Pets at Home offer visits to groups



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Get involved

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PLANTS and ANIMALS

Britain's butterflies

Time:

40 minutes

Who it's for:

All ages

You'll need:

- Paints, paper, pencils
- Images of different butterflies

What to do:

1. Introduce the session by asking members to come up with as many different words as possible that are linked to butterflies. What colour butterflies have they seen? Where and when have they seen them? (From April to October they can be found in our gardens and open spaces.)
2. Split the group into teams of five. Each team should choose a name and then line up along the starting line in single file with their hands on the person in front's shoulders imagining they are a caterpillar.
3. When the whistle blows the first person in each team should take a step forward. Once they have completed their step the second person can take a step forward and this is repeated until the final person in the team has taken a step forward. The last person in the team then shouts out their team's name and the first person starts the cycle again. The winning team are the first ones to the end of the meeting room. As teams finish they become butterflies and can 'fly' around the room.
4. At the end of the game explain that butterflies (and bees) are very important for helping plants to pollinate (reproduce), but that their numbers are strongly affected by changes to our climate and to habitat loss.
5. Now members can create their own butterfly artwork. Hand out paper and paints to everyone and ask them to fold their piece of paper in half. Use pencil to draw the outline of half a butterfly with the middle meeting the fold in the paper (you may need to draw an example).
6. Now members should use paints to give their butterfly a pattern. They can design their own, or refer to the images on offer. Once they have painted one half, fold the paper over onto the wet paint to leave an identical pattern on the other side and leave to dry.
7. If time, the group could choose another butterfly craft project.