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WE BOTH READ[®]

LEVEL

2

Endangered Animals

Second Edition



By Elise Forier

Take turns reading!



Parent Reads →



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🌐 Sometimes animals become extinct because of what people do. Dodo (doh-doh) birds lived until a few hundred years ago but only on a faraway island near India.

Dodos were very gentle birds that could not fly. Since the dodos didn't have any natural predators on their island, the dodos were not frightened by the sailors who arrived in 1505.



Dodo bird & nest



Soon more people came on boats with dogs and rats. The dodos did not run away from them. The people killed the dodos for food. The rats and dogs ate dodo eggs.

The last dodo died in 1681. Dodos are now extinct.

☉ It has been over 300 years since the last dodo existed on Earth, and many other animals have become extinct since then. The last known western black rhino was spotted in 2006. The last-known two of the northern white rhino, both females, live in an animal conservancy in Kenya. When they die, their species will become extinct too.

Northern white rhinoceros





Whale shark



Bonobos



Puffins

- ☹️ There are many other animals in danger of becoming extinct. People cutting down forests, building on open lands, and polluting the water and air are some of the reasons for this.

Endangered Animals

VU vulnerable

EN endangered

CE critically endangered

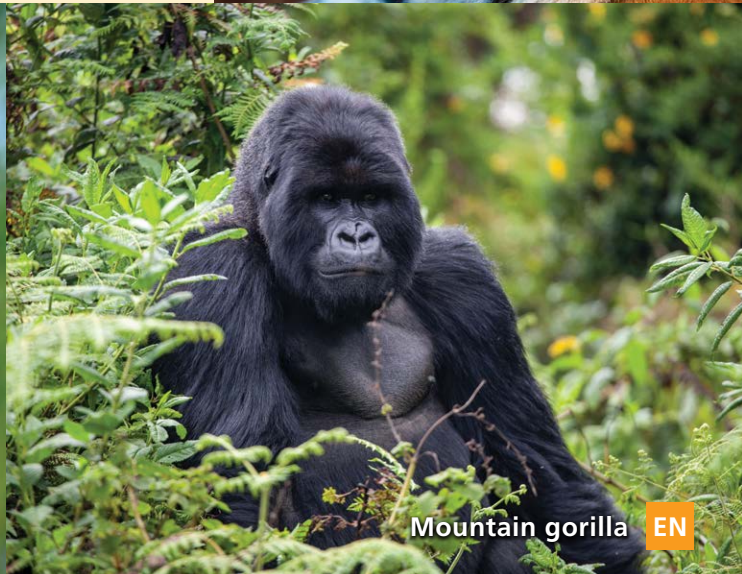
EW extinct in the wild



Siberian tiger **EN**



Hyacinth macaw **VU**



Mountain gorilla **EN**

📍 Animal species in danger of becoming extinct fall into four main categories: (1) vulnerable – may go extinct in the next 100 years; (2) **endangered** – could go extinct within 20 years; (3) critically **endangered** – having a high likelihood of going extinct within 10 years; and (4) extinct in the wild – the only surviving animals are in zoos, aquariums, or animal preserves.



Manatee **VU**




Hawksbill sea turtle **CE**

☹️ It is sad that some animals are **endangered**, but at least there is hope. If we work together to make sure endangered animals can have food, clean water, and safe places to live, they may never become extinct.



Giant panda **VU**

 The place where an animal lives is called its **habitat**. Many animals live in unique **habitats**, where they eat certain foods and create special homes.

Giant pandas live in bamboo forests in China, and bamboo is their only source of food. Sadly, humans are causing these forests to disappear. Golden lion tamarins live across the world from pandas in the South American rain forest. Like pandas, tamarins are losing their forest **habitat** and have become endangered.



Golden lion tamarin **EN**




☁ There are many other wild animals that also need the rain forest trees for their **habitat**. If all the rain forests are cut down, many of these animals will become extinct.





Climate change is causing many habitats to change, making them uninhabitable for **native** animals. Polar bears walk on the ice to hunt for food, but **climate change** has made a lot of the ice melt. Unable to find enough food, polar bears do not get fat enough before they hibernate and some of them die.

Polar bears 





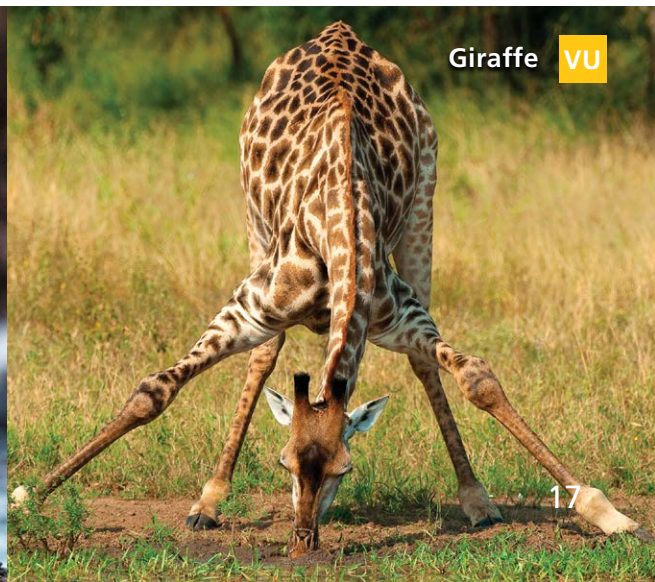
African elephants **VU**



In some places, **climate change** has made it too hot for **native** plants to grow. Water holes have dried up. With not enough food to eat or water to drink, native animals are not able to survive.



Galapagos penguin **EN**



Giraffe **VU**



Sea otter **EN**

👤 Some animals make their home in places that are also attractive to humans, especially near the ocean. Close to half of all the people in the world live within 100 miles of a sandy beach.

Many marine animals, including sea turtles, lay their eggs on beaches. It is getting more and more difficult for them to find safe nesting areas away from human dangers.



This green sea turtle hatchling has just emerged from its egg and is trying to get to the ocean. **EN**

How can you help?

- Some habitats are destroyed so the trees and land can be used to make more and more things for people. Try your best to use less. Buy fewer clothes, and keep them until they wear out. Share games and toys with friends. Reuse school supplies each year instead of always buying new supplies.

Orangutan 