

Under threat

Key Stage 3

Learning objectives

To list reasons why species can become endangered due to human activity.
To describe how one human activity can affect a named species.

Session content

This 40 minute interactive session helps students understand why animals are becoming endangered. Students will investigate how animal populations are decreasing due to tourism, habitat loss, pollution, introduced species as well as the medicine and pet trades. They will have the opportunity to work in pairs or small groups to handle relevant biofacts (skins and skulls) many of which are on loan from HM Customs and Excise. Students are then introduced to how threatened species are classified.

Learning outcomes

At the end of this session...

- Most students will be able to recall reasons why some animals are endangered (those mentioned in the session) and describe how a named species is affected by human activity.
- Some students will have progressed further and will be able to recall reasons why animals become endangered and be able to give a brief description of each with examples.
- Some students may not have progressed as far and will be able to list some of the reasons animals have become endangered.

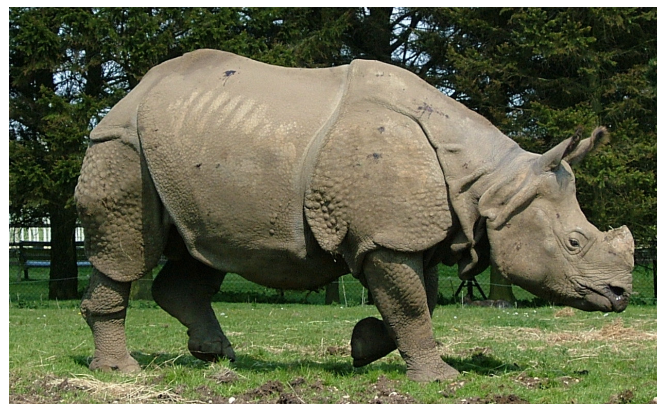
National Curriculum links

- **KS3 Sci 3.4c** - Human activity and natural processes can lead to changes in the environment.
- **KS3 Sci 4c** - Use real life examples as a basis for finding out about science.
- **KS3 Sci 4e** - Experiencing science outside the school environment.

GCSE specification links

- **OCR Gateway Science B and Biology B B2** - Describe reasons why animals become extinct or endangered and how these species can be helped.
- **OCR Entry Level Science B3** - Suggest how human beings have caused some species to become endangered or extinct and give examples of endangered species.

Other links: KS3 Citizenship, GCSE Environmental Science.



Assessment opportunities

Students' understanding can be assessed through questioning, listening to discussions and group presentations.

Session suitability

This session is suitable as an introduction to the subject of endangered species. After a brief verbal introduction supported with images projected onto a screen, students work in mixed ability groups to investigate reasons why species become threatened. The investigation is built around written materials, coloured photographs and biofacts (skins, skulls, bones etc.) laid out on tables. Some of the examples used include hair and feathers so it is important to consider children with allergies. Students are asked to move round the room between the tables and to present some of their findings to the rest of the class. If this is not appropriate for your group, please let us know by calling 01582 871330. Accompanying adults can support the groups by facilitating and advancing group discussions.

Additional information

We would like to know in advance if any members of your class have learning, physical or sensory difficulties, allergies or illness which might affect their enjoyment of the session. It is usually possible to tailor the session should your group have any special requirements. Please call 01582 871330 at least 2 weeks in advance of your visit to discuss the best way to do this.

Suggested activities:

Before the visit

- Ask students what their favourite species of animal is and how they would feel if it became extinct. What might they consider doing to stop their favourite species from becoming extinct?
- Question the students on their opinions about zoos. What do they believe zoos do? Do they think zoos are good or bad? Students could make notes on these questions before the visit and compare their opinions after they have come to the Zoo.

During the visit

- Students could complete the trail 'The role of a good zoo' a copy of which can be downloaded from the website. This trail will start students thinking about how zoos can help conserve animals. *NB: Remember to download the teacher copy as well as the student copy.*

After the visit

- Please complete a feedback sheet (available at the session or from our website) to help improve the education provision at Whipsnade Zoo.
- Students could debate the pro and cons of zoos using information they gathered while at Whipsnade and any additional information they have gathered at school or during private study.
- Students could design a poster or website for an awareness campaign about endangered species including the reasons why animals are threatened in the wild and how we can conserve these species for the future.

Useful websites

ZSL Whipsnade Zoo conservation programmes – www.zsl.org/conservation

Arkive – www.arkive.org/species

CITES website – www.cites.org

World Wildlife fund – [www.panda.org/what we do/endangered species](http://www.panda.org/what_we_do/endangered_species)

TRAFFIC – www.traffic.org/home

21st Century Tiger - www.21stcenturytiger.org

Australian Maritime Safety Authority -

www.amsa.gov.au/marine_environment_protection/educational_resources_and_information/teachers/the_effects_of_oil_on_wildlife.asp

Peoples trust for the environment - www.ypte.org.uk/environmental/endangered-animals-of-the-world/24