

Year 4 - Endangered Animals!

We study endangered animals as part of our science curriculum. The purpose of this project is to understand how living things can be classified and grouped depending on certain characteristics that they have. We will also explore food chains and the impact that animal and plant extinction could have on upon these. The effect of environmental changes on both animal and plant habitats will also be investigated.

Prior learning

In years 1, 2 and 3, you have already learnt that:

- Animals can be grouped as **mammals**, **fish**, **reptiles**, **amphibians** or **birds**.
- Animals can be **omnivores**, **herbivores** or **carnivores** depending on what they eat.
- A **habitat** is a home or environment for animals, plants or other living organisms.
- Plastic **pollution** has a deadly effect on wildlife. Thousands of seabirds, sea turtles and other mammals that live in the sea are killed each year after eating plastic or getting caught in it.



Key vocabulary

Food chain
Extinct/ Extinction
Producer / Prey / Predator
Environment
Classification key
Endangered
Habitat

Key questions to support learning:

How can animals be classified/ grouped?

What is a food chain?

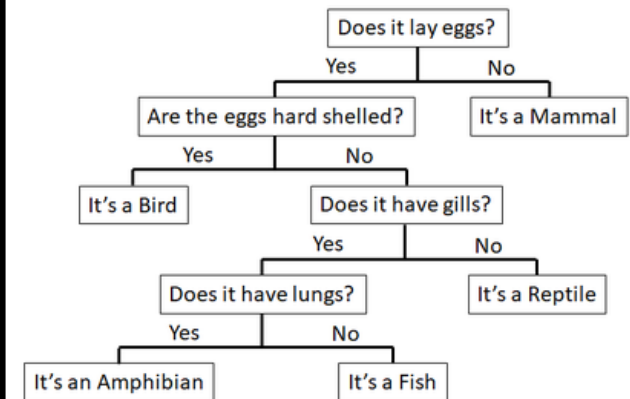
What is a classification key and how are they used?

What is a producer? What is prey? What is a predator?

What would happen if a producer / prey became extinct? How would this effect the food chain?

What is happening to certain environments to make them a danger to living things?

How can these changes effect food chains?



World's top 10 endangered species:

1. **Javan Rhinos**
2. **Amur Leopard**
3. **Sunda Island Tiger**
4. **Mountain Gorillas**
5. **Tapanuli Orangutan**
6. **Yangtze Finless Porpoise**
7. **Black Rhinos**
8. **African Forest Elephant**
9. **Sumatran Orangutan**
10. **Hawksbill Turtles**



What is a food chain?

A food chain describes how different organisms eat each other, starting out with a plant and ending with an animal.

What is a classification key?

A classification key is a set of questions about the characteristics of living things. You can use a key to identify a living thing or decide which group it belongs to by answering the questions.