

Animals in Danger

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Introduction

This ungraded summary is for the teacher's use only and should not be given to students.

Chapter Summary

Chapter 1 (*Why are animals in danger?*) introduces the topic and explains how animals like dinosaurs became extinct in the past and why this is still happening today.

Chapter 2 (*The effect of humans*) covers the contribution that humans have made to the extinction of animals. One example is Lake Victoria, in Africa, which is dying because humans put bigger fish in the lake which ate all the smaller algae-eating cichlid fish, so now there is too much algae.

Chapter 3 (*Animals matter*) explains the role of animals in the world and why it is important to protect them. It shows how animals help humans and why they are important to scientists. One example is of Edward Jenner developing the vaccine for smallpox from cows.

Chapter 4 (*On Land*) looks at the animals on land that are currently in danger; for example the tapir, especially the mountain tapir in the Andes, and the white rhino. Scientists say that both these species will be extinct very soon.

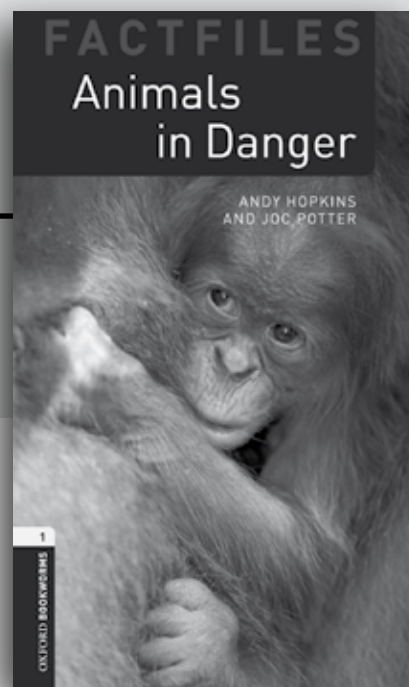
Chapter 5 (*In the water*) covers animals in the water under threat, such as river dolphins in China and India, and blue whales which some countries still hunt and kill.

Chapter 6 (*In the sky*) is about birds and what is being done to protect them. They include: the Spix's macaw which you can now see only in zoos; the bald ibis, which are learning to fly behind little planes to a warm place for the winter; the kakapos, which is a kind of parrot that cannot fly.

Chapter 7 (*What can countries do?*) asks what steps countries can take to save these animals. It talks about national parks, what politicians can do, and the effects of the world's increasing population.

Chapter 8 (*What can we do?*) is about the role individual people can play in saving animals. It outlines the work of Jane Goodall with chimpanzees in East Africa and Dian Fossey with gorillas in Rwanda. It also talks about the work of the World Wildlife Fund.

Chapter 9 (*What can zoos do?*) looks at the role of zoos and gives examples of projects at Jersey Zoo. It



explains how in 1976 seven boas went to the zoo from Jamaica, where they were in danger of extinction, and now hundreds of little boas are born at the zoo every year.

Chapter 10 (*'New' animals*) is about animals that have recently been discovered. For example the okapi, with its blue tongue and black and white legs, was not known outside the Democratic Republic of Congo before 1901. And those animals that were thought to have disappeared but have been found again, like the golden hamster.

Background

An endangered species is a group of animals which is at risk of extinction, either because there are very few of them remaining, or they are threatened by environmental changes.

Many countries have laws offering special protection to these species or their habitats: for example, forbidding hunting or creating nature reserves. However, only a few of the many endangered species actually obtain legal protection.

In the last 500 years, 844 species are known to have died out, and up to 16,000 others are thought to be threatened. While species have become extinct on a regular basis for millions of years, the greatest concern is the rate at which species have become extinct within the last 150 years. A staggering 40 per cent of Asia's plants and animals could soon be lost. If this rate of extinction continues, or accelerates as seems to be happening, the number of species becoming extinct in the next decade could be enormous.

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Pre-reading activity

Word search

Match these words with the definitions below. Use the glossary at the back of *Animals in Danger* to help you.

algae, charity, coat, disappear, extinct, habitat, hunt, natural, nature, pollute, protect, species, tongue, vaccine

DEFINITIONS

- 1 to make the air, rivers etc dirty and dangerous _____
- 2 a liquid that is put in the body to protect it from disease _____
- 3 the natural place where an animal lives _____
- 4 to chase animals to kill them, for sport or for food _____
- 5 a group of animals that are the same in some way _____
- 6 very simple plants that grow in water _____
- 7 to keep something safe _____
- 8 a group of people who work to help people or animals in need _____
- 9 made by nature, not by people _____
- 10 not alive in the world anymore _____
- 11 to go away from a place; to stop existing _____
- 12 the soft part in your mouth that moves when you talk _____
- 13 the hair or fur that covers an animal _____
- 14 everything in the world that was not made by people _____

Now find the words in the wordsearch below.

D	E	G	H	A	B	I	T	A	T	C	A
I	N	L	P	O	A	B	X	T	O	D	V
S	K	E	X	T	I	N	C	T	N	N	S
A	L	G	A	E	N	C	O	F	G	O	P
P	K	L	C	Q	A	N	A	M	U	A	E
P	O	L	L	U	T	E	T	N	E	K	C
E	Y	U	Z	X	U	C	A	Q	W	H	I
A	F	D	B	P	R	O	T	E	C	T	E
R	M	J	E	R	E	S	S	A	E	V	S
V	A	C	C	I	N	E	I	K	Y	G	N
C	V	F	E	N	A	T	U	R	A	L	R
H	U	N	T	V	C	H	A	R	I	T	Y

To the teacher

Aim: To introduce some of the key vocabulary

Time: 10–15 minutes

Key: pollute, vaccine, habitat, hunt, species, algae, protect, charity, natural, extinct, disappear, tongue, coat, nature.

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While reading activity

Which animal?

1 Where do these animals live? Write the names of the animals below in the correct circle: baiji dolphins, bald ibis, chimpanzee, cichlid, dodo, dolphins, kakapos, killer whales, rat, rhinoceros, Siberian tiger, Spix's macaw, tapir

Rivers	Lakes	Land	Sea	Trees

2 When did they become extinct or when are they going to be extinct? Match the animals below with the dates of extinction:

big animals in Australia, dinosaurs, dodo, many species of cichlid, most of the species in the sea, mountain tapirs, northern white rhinos

	Very soon
	When people moved to Asia
	65 million years ago
	250 million years ago
	By about 1680
	In the 1950s
	In twenty years

To the teacher

Where: When students have finished reading chapter 6.

Aim: 1 To check that students have understood where different animals live, whether on land, in water, or in the air. **2** To check that students have understood the meaning of extinction, and when animals became extinct or will become extinct.

Time: 10 minutes for each activity

Organization: 1 Give a copy of the worksheet to each pair of students. Ask them to decide where these animals live and write the names in the correct space. Check answers with the whole class. **2** Then ask them what they remember about the word 'extinction', and if they remember when some

animals became extinct. They should write the animals in the correct box next to the time. When they have finished check the answers with the whole class.

Key 1: RIVERS: baiji dolphins; LAND: rhinoceros, kakapos, tapir, rat, dodo, chimpanzee, Siberian tiger; SEA: killer whales, dolphins; LAKES: cichlid; TREES: bald ibis, Spix's macaw.

Key 2: Northern white rhinos – Very soon; Big animals in Australia – When people moved from Asia; Dinosaurs – 65 million years ago; Most of the species in the sea – 250 million years ago; Dodo – By about 1680; Cichlid – In the 1950s; Mountain tapirs – In twenty years

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After reading activity

Which animal?

Chimpanzee	
Okapi	
Kakapos	
White rhino	
Blue whale	
Tapir	
Tiger	

Write the phrases below next to the right animal in the table above.

Antarctica is a good place for it
 can be four metres long
 can live for ninety years
 carries its babies for a year
 does not have babies easily in zoos
 eats with its hands
 gets ill when humans near it are ill
 goes a long way when hunting
 has a long blue tongue
 has black and white legs
 has one or two horns

is a new species
 is from the dolphin family
 is green and yellow
 is the biggest animal in the cat family
 Jane Goodall helped to protect them
 leaves its babies for many hours at night
 lives in New Zealand
 lives in the Andes mountains
 needs its mother's milk for a year
 people kill it for its beautiful coat

To the teacher

Where: At the end of the book.

Aim: To focus student's attention back on animals in the book.

Time: 10–15 minutes

Organization: Give each student, or pair of students, a copy of the worksheet. Ask them what they remember about the seven animals. Then ask them to match the phrases with each animal. Check the answers with the whole class.

Key: *Chimpanzee:* gets ill when humans near it are ill; Jane Goodall helped to protect them; eats with its hands. *Okapi:* Is a new species; has a long blue

tongue; has black and white legs. *Kakapos:* is green and yellow; leaves its babies for many hours at night; lives in New Zealand. *White rhino:* does not have babies easily in zoos; has one or two horns; can be four metres long. *Blue whale:* is from the dolphin family; Antarctica is a good place for it; can live for ninety years. *Tapir:* lives in the Andes mountains; carries its babies for a year; needs its mother's milk for a year. *Tiger:* goes a long way when hunting; people kill it for its beautiful coat; is the biggest animal in the cat family