

CHAMPIONS FOR NATURE

ELECTIVE ADVENTURE



190 Webelos

SNAPSHOT OF ADVENTURE



It is estimated that 80% of Earth's species (including humans) live on land. We share the planet with a lot of different animal species on land. Humans can make a positive impact on wildlife. Using what we have learned about wildlife, humans have been able to limit negative impacts on wildlife. We have successfully protected and increased the populations of many animals, including the American bald eagle, American alligator, green sea turtle, and the whooping crane. In this Adventure, you will learn more about the wildlife we share our planet with. You may put what you learn into action with a conservation project.

REQUIREMENTS

Approved by

1. Explore the four components that make up a habitat: food, water, shelter, and space.
2. Pick an animal that is currently threatened or endangered to complete requirements 3, 4, and 5.
3. Identify the characteristics that classify an animal as a threatened or endangered species.
4. Explore what caused this animal to be threatened or endangered.
5. Research what is currently being done to protect the animal.
6. Participate in a conservation service project.



• Elective Adventure

• Scan for this Adventure page

REQUIREMENT 1

Explore the four components that make up a habitat: food, water, shelter, and space.

Wildlife habitats include all the factors that make the survival of wildlife possible. The major components needed for life are food, water, shelter, and space.

Food

All living things need food for survival. The availability of food is a crucial part of a habitat's arrangement. Too little food may cause animals to die off or move away from the habitat.



Too much food can also be disruptive. Freshwater algae blooms may absorb oxygen, destroying fish and plants.

Water

Safe access to clean water is not just important for humans; it's important to all living things.



Shelter

Wildlife may not build houses or apartments like humans, but they do have places they live. Some wildlife build their shelter. Others use naturally occurring elements like trees, holes, or caves. They may use their shelter to give birth to and nurture their young or for protection from other wildlife and weather.



Space

All animals need adequate space in a suitable environment to provide access to sufficient food and water, as well as enough territory for mating and nesting and cover or shelter from weather and predators.

REQUIREMENT 2

Pick an animal that is currently threatened or endangered to complete requirements 3, 4, and 5.

This requirement asks you to pick an animal that is currently threatened or endangered. You'll research some things about this animal in the next three requirements. How can you find out what animals are classified as threatened or endangered? Several organizations and government agencies keep track of this information, including the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. With an adult, you can search their websites on the internet to learn about them.

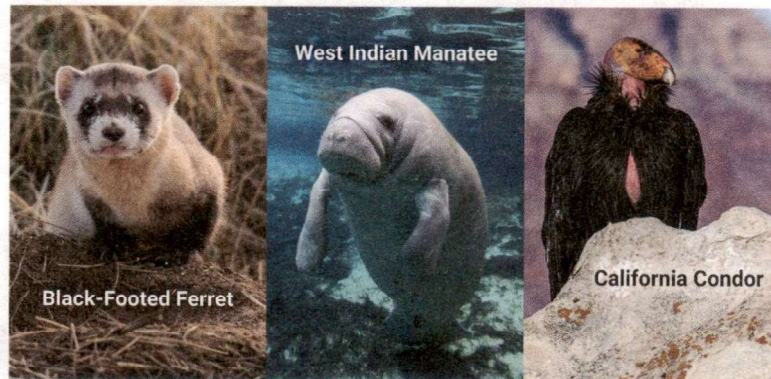


REQUIREMENT 3

Identify the characteristics that classify an animal as a threatened or endangered species.

"Species" is a group of living things that can reproduce with one another in nature and produce fertile offspring. Animal species can be identified by their physical characteristics or what they look like. Scientists have discovered 1.2 million animal species living on Earth. Most of these discovered species live on land, rather than in the water.

Threatened animals are any animals that are vulnerable to extinction in the near future. Extinction is when the population of an animal species reaches zero.



An **endangered species** is a species that is very likely to become extinct in the near future, either worldwide or in a specific area. Endangered species may be at risk due to factors such as habitat loss, poaching, or invasive species.

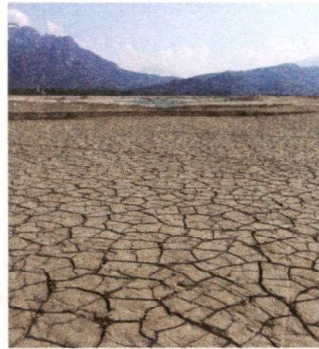
REQUIREMENT 4

Explore what caused this animal to be threatened or endangered.

Several factors can cause an animal to become threatened or endangered. Sometimes these factors are naturally occurring, and other times they are caused by humans.

Naturally occurring events have caused some animals to go extinct. Things like invasive species and natural disasters can have an impact on the population of a species.

Humans can negatively impact a species when human activity affects that animal's access to water, food, shelter, or needed space.



What are the things that have caused your animal to be threatened or endangered?



REQUIREMENT 5

Research what is currently being done to protect the animal.

With your den or family, identify what can be done or is being done to protect the animal you chose. In your research, identify the following facts.

Is the population of your animal increasing or decreasing?

How quickly is your animal's population expected to increase or decrease?

Are there any current laws protecting your animal?

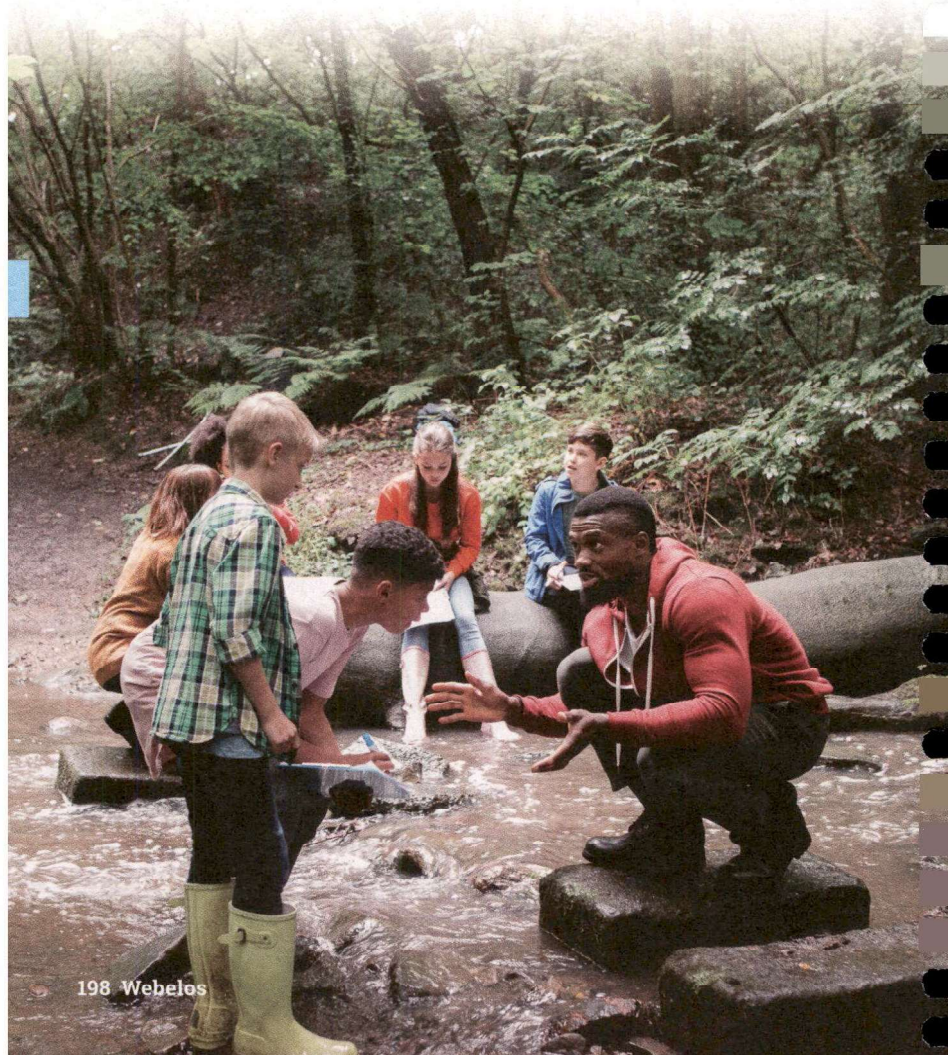
In your opinion, do you believe that the things that are currently being done to protect the animal are working? If not, what do you believe could be done?



REQUIREMENT 6

Participate in a conservation service project.

With your den, pack, or family, conduct a conservation service project. Maybe you can conduct a project that will help one of the animals that you or a member of your den studied.



Here are some projects that can help increase the population of some important wildlife.

Build a bee bath, and place it in a garden. Bees are important pollinators and are key to just about every food web.



Build a bat house. Bats keep insect populations in balance and also are pollinators.

