

Reading Booklet

Year 6 Reading Assessment - Non-Fiction



Endangered

Endangered

Introduction

Endangered animals are those species that are considered likely to become extinct, based on a current population trend. Their numbers known in the wild are low and thought to be decreasing.

Sadly, some species of animals are already now considered **Extinct** or **Extinct in the Wild**, including the famous dodo, a flightless bird thought to have been about one metre tall. Further examples include the passenger pigeon, the Tasmanian tiger and recently the West African black rhino.

According to a recent update of the 'Red List' produced by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), 834 different species have now been classified as 'Extinct' with another 69 as 'Extinct in the Wild'.

Some other species are currently classed as **Endangered** or **Critically Endangered**, if facing a high or extremely high risk of extinction. There are further categories including **Vulnerable** and **Near-Threatened** for species which may face a risk of endangerment in the near future.

A large proportion of primates (such as apes, lemurs and monkeys) are at risk. However, there are success stories too.

Some animals, like the bald eagle and the American alligator, were once on the brink of extinction but are now known to be recovering.

What causes endangerment or extinction?

Animal extinction can occur due to natural or human causes. Natural causes include change of climate or sea levels. In more modern times, the most common causes are from human intervention such as hunting or habitat destruction. There are other possibilities too such as pollution, new diseases, new predators or a single catastrophic event.

Why save them?

Plants and animals can be extremely important for the ecosystem of the Earth. Species depend on each other for survival. Aside from this, we want to be able to enjoy the beauty of nature and, once a species becomes extinct, it has gone forever.

Black Rhino

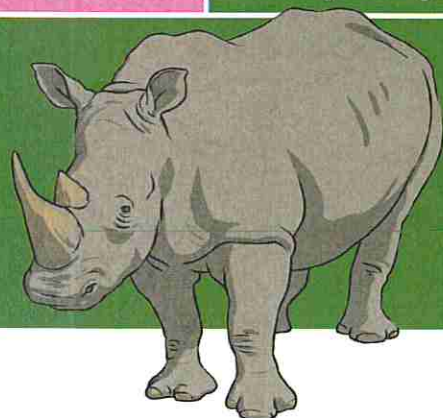
Population:

More than 5000

Status:

Critically Endangered

Hunted for food or simply entertainment, the black rhino population went into decline due to European settlers in Africa during the 20th century. Despite being one of the oldest groups of mammals on the planet, their habitats have been destroyed and, for many years, they have been killed for the illegal trade of their horn.



Endangered

Mountain Gorilla

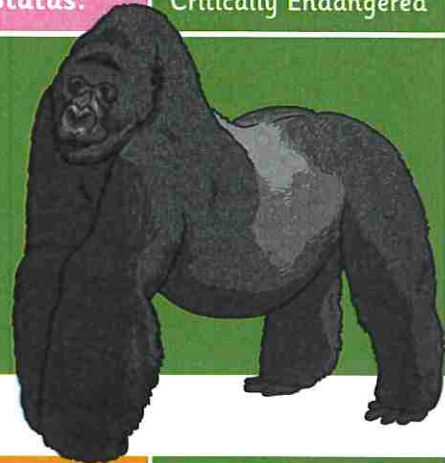
Population:

880

Status:

Critically Endangered

Most surviving mountain gorillas currently live in the African country of Uganda. The population has suffered from years of war, hunting, habitat destruction and disease. At one point, scientists thought that the species would be extinct some years ago. Fortunately, due to increased conservation efforts, their numbers have been increasing again in recent decades.



South China Tiger

Population:

None identified in the wild

Status:

Functionally Extinct

In the 1950s, there were estimated to be around 4000 of the South China tigers living in the wild. After decreasing rapidly for decades, the Chinese government introduced a hunting ban in 1979 to prevent further decline. However, by 1996 the population was estimated to be just around 50 individuals. Now, as it has not been seen in the wild for more than 25 years, the South China tiger has instead been considered by scientists as 'functionally extinct'.



Giant Panda

Population:

1800 in the wild

Status:

Endangered

Considerable efforts have gone into conservation of the giant panda in recent years both in the wild as well as captivity. Although the animals have little in the way of natural predators, they have seen their habitat destroyed by roads, railways and other construction. Pandas play an important role in the bamboo forests where they roam and spread seeds to encourage growth of new plants. In turn, this area remains home to many other animal species that rely on the environment.



Year 6 Reading Assessment Non-Fiction Answer Booklet

First Name						
Middle Name						
Last Name						
Date of Birth	Day		Month		Year	
School Name						
DfE Number						

Questions 1 to 14 are about 'Endangered'

1. According to the introduction of the text, how many species have now been classified as 'Extinct in the Wild'?

1 mark

2. How tall was the dodo bird thought to be?

1 mark

3. What other animals does the text list as being now extinct? Tick **three**.

2 marks

passenger pigeon

☐

Tasmanian tiger

☐

West African black rhino

☐

black rhino

☐

mountain gorilla

☐

giant panda

☐

4. Look at this sentence:

"Some animals, like the bald eagle and the American alligator, were once on the brink of extinction but are now known to be recovering."

What is the meaning of the word **brink** in this sentence?

1 mark

total for this page

5. Complete this table of information about some of the animals' features in the text:

Animal	Status	Population
Mountain Gorilla	Critically Endangered	
	Critically Endangered	More than 5,000
Giant Panda		1800 in the wild

.....

Look at the section about the **South China Tiger**.

6. In what year did the Chinese government introduce a hunting ban?

.....

7. According to the text, why is this species of tiger considered to be 'functionally extinct'?

.....

8. Find and copy a word which means reducing or getting smaller in number.

.....

3 marks

1 mark

1 mark

1 mark

total for this page

Look at the section about the **Giant Panda**.

9. Why might it be surprising that the giant panda is endangered? Give **two** reasons.

1. _____
2. _____

2 marks

10. Why are the pandas important for the bamboo forests?

1 mark

11. How do pandas living in the wild benefit other animal species?

1 mark

12. Match these facts with the correct animal in the text. One has been done for you.

Bald Eagle

Killed for the illegal trade of their horn

Mountain Gorilla

Flightless bird, now extinct

Black Rhino

Once at risk of extinction but now recovering

Dodo

Suffered from years of war, hunting, habitat destruction and disease

1 mark

total for this page

13. Give **two** reasons why animals should be saved from extinction. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

2 marks

14. Look at the section called '**What causes endangerment or extinction?**'

The text says: '*Animal extinction can occur due to natural or human causes.*'

Which reason do you think is more likely to be responsible for species becoming extinct in recent years? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.

2 marks

End of questions about '*Endangered*'

END OF TEST

total for
this page

English

KS2

2016

Year 6 Reading Assessment Marking Scheme for Non-Fiction

question	answer	marks	notes
1.	According to the introduction of the text, how many species have now been classified as 'Extinct in the Wild'?		
	69	1	Content domain: 2b - retrieve and record information / identify key details from fiction and non-fiction. Award 1 mark for the correct answer indicated.
2.	How tall was the dodo bird thought to be?		
	About 1 metre tall	1	Content domain: 2b - retrieve and record information / identify key details from fiction and non-fiction. Award 1 mark for the correct answer indicated.
3.	What other animals does the text list as being now extinct? Tick three .		
	passenger pigeon West African black rhino Tasmanian tiger	Up to 2	Content domain: 2b - retrieve and record information / identify key details from fiction and non-fiction. Award 2 marks for all three ticked correctly and no others ticked. Award 1 mark for one or two ticked correctly and / or other options incorrectly ticked.
4.	Look at this sentence: "Some animals, like the bald eagle and the American alligator, were once on the brink of extinction but are now known to be recovering." What is the meaning of the word brink in this sentence?		
	the edge / verge / threshold nearly occurring about to happen	1	Content domain: 2a - give / explain the meaning of words in context. Award 1 mark for answers which indicate the meaning of brink.
5.	Complete this table of information about some of the animals' features in the text:		
	Black Rhino Endangered 880	Up to 3	Content domain: 2b - retrieve and record information / identify key details from fiction and non-fiction. Award 1 mark for each box correctly completed.
6.	In what year did the Chinese government introduce a hunting ban?		
	1979	1	Content domain: 2b - retrieve and record information / identify key details from fiction and non-fiction. Award 1 mark for the correct answer indicated.

7.	According to the text, why is this species of tiger considered to be 'functionally extinct'?		
	Because it has not been seen in the wild for more than 25 years.	1	Content domain: 2b - retrieve and record information / identify key details from fiction and non-fiction. Award 1 mark for the correct answer indicated.
8.	Find and copy a word which means reducing or getting smaller in number.		
	decreasing or decline	1	Content domain: 2a - give / explain the meaning of words in context. Award 1 mark for either decreasing or decline.
9.	Why might it be surprising that the giant panda is endangered? Give two reasons.		
	1. Considerable efforts have gone into conservation. 2. The animals have no natural predators.	Up to 2	Content domain: 2b - retrieve and record information / identify key details from fiction and non-fiction. Award 1 mark for each correct reason indicated.
10.	Why are the pandas important for the bamboo forests?		
	Spread seeds / encourage new growth	1	Content domain: 2d - make inferences from the text / explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text. Award 1 mark for the correct answer indicated.
11.	How do pandas living in the wild benefit other animal species?		
	Other species of animals live in the forest so they need it to keep growing. Without the pandas spreading bamboo seeds, the forests would not grow so well and it is the home of the other species. The forest is home to other animal species which rely on the pandas spreading the seeds to encourage new growth.	1	Content domain: 2d - make inferences from the text / explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text. Award 1 mark for answers which explain the need for regrowth of the bamboo forest as a habitat for other species, which occurs through the pandas spreading seeds.
12.	Match these facts with the correct animal in the text. One has been done for you.		
	Bald Eagle - Once at risk of extinction but now recovering Black Rhino - Killed for the illegal trade of their horn Dodo - Flightless bird, now extinct	1	Content domain: 2b - retrieve and record information / identify key details from fiction and non-fiction. Award 1 mark for all animals and facts correctly matched.

13.	Give two reasons why animals should be saved from extinction. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.		
	<p>Plants and animals can be extremely important for the ecosystem of the Earth.</p> <p>Species depend on each other for survival.</p> <p>We want to be able to enjoy the beauty of nature.</p> <p>Once a species becomes extinct, it has gone forever.</p>	Up to 2	<p>Content domain: 2d - make inferences from the text / explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text.</p> <p>Award 1 mark for each reason given, up to two marks. Quotations or information taken directly from the text should be evident.</p>
14.	<p>Look at the section called 'What causes endangerment or extinction?'</p> <p>The text says: <i>'Animal extinction can occur due to natural or human causes.'</i></p> <p>Which reason do you think is more likely to be responsible for species becoming extinct in recent years? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.</p>		
	<p>Human causes are more likely as they include examples such as hunting or habitat destruction which have happened more recently.</p> <p>Human causes because the text says 'In more modern times, the most common causes are from human intervention.'</p> <p>or</p> <p>Natural causes because governments have introduced new laws, such as in China in 1979, to reduce the decline of animals like the giant panda.</p> <p>Natural causes because 'increased conservation efforts' have helped to save species such as the mountain gorilla, bald eagle or American alligator.</p>	2	<p>Content domain: 2d - make inferences from the text / explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text.</p> <p>Award 2 marks for the answer 'human causes', along with appropriate evidence from the text.</p> <p>Alternatively award 2 marks for the answer 'natural causes' if the evidence refers to a change of attitude or laws in recent times.</p>
		Total 20	