

ANIMALS AT RISK



READING

12 **ES** Read the text about the extinction of some plant and animal species. Then answer the questions.



Environmentalism places the health, harmony and integrity of the natural world at the centre of human attention.

People depend on the environment for air, water, food, energy and other basic necessities.

For this reason, protecting the environment is vital to human survival now and in the future.

Extinction is the disappearance of an entire species because of natural or unnatural causes.

Some species of plants and animals die naturally because newer species are more successful at competing for food and living space. Others become extinct because of changes in the planet

or because of natural disasters. Dinosaurs, for example, became extinct because the climate became cooler or because an asteroid collided with the earth and caused a big cloud of dust that blocked out the sun. In today's world, however, species mostly become extinct or are threatened with extinction because of humans. Humans hunt animals, destroy their habitats, and introduce other animals that prey upon the endangered animals or compete for their resources. Among these factors, the greatest threat to plants and animals is habitat destruction. Just think: the consumptions of plants and animals by people is much faster than their reproduction; animals don't reproduce as much as they can because people are destroying their habitats. If people destroy the forest, for example, it gets harder for the animals to reproduce and survive. Currently, more than 11 thousand animal species are in danger of extinction. If invertebrates



and plants are included, the total number of species in imminent danger is around 20 thousand. The most endangered are the Black Rhino, the Giant Panda and the Tiger.

You can help associations like WWF to protect the environment.



1. What is environmentalism interested in?
2. Why do people have to take care of the environment?
3. Explain in your own words: "species are threatened with extinction".
4. Give three examples of natural causes of extinction.
5. How can people be the cause of animal extinction?
6. What's the most worrying threat to plants and animals?
7. What happens to animals if people destroy the forest?
8. How many plant and animal species are close to extinction?
9. What animals are at risk of extinction?
10. What's the WWF?

environmentalism = ambientalismo
hunt = caccia
among = tra
threat = minaccia



LISTENING

13   Luckily, some animal species were successfully saved from extinction. Listen to four success stories one at a time and complete the sentences, choosing a, b or c.

GRIZZLY BEAR

- They were once in great quantity in
 a. North America b. South America c. North Europe
- They are going to disappear because bear hunting is
 a. dangerous b. a free time activity c. legal
- In there are more than 580 bears.
 a. Yosemite Park b. Yellowstone Park c. Grand Canyon

**BALD EAGLE**

- The story of the Bald Eagle is
 a. the saddest b. the most successful c. the most worrying
- The effects of were one of the worst causes of the risk of extinction.
 a. pesticides b. the destruction of their habitat c. air pollution
- Currently, the population is
 a. decreasing b. just the same c. increasing

**GREEN SEA TURTLE**

- The Green Sea Turtle is animal on Earth.
 a. the biggest b. the oldest c. the ugliest
- People hunted them for and clothing industry.
 a. food b. gadgets c. fun
- A lot of are involved in saving these animals.
 a. governments b. political parties c. organisations

**FLORIDA PANTHER**

- It is one of mammals on Earth.
 a. the most endangered b. the most important c. the most interesting
- One of the most serious threats for the panther is
 a. hunting injuries b. fighting injuries c. car accident injuries
- They are very aggressive when they fight for
 a. food b. territory c. females



WRITING

14 Write a description of an animal which differs in a particular aspect (the fastest, the biggest, the strongest, the most intelligent...). Use the notes below.

- Where it lives / how it lives / how long it lives...
- A predator or a prey? How it differs from the other animals...



SPOKEN INTERACTION

15 Work in groups of four. In turn, read the description of your animal and say what similarities or differences you notice, making comparisons. Use some of the following adjectives: fast, big, strong, intelligent, ferocious, long-living (*longevo*) and many others.