

ENDANGERED SPECIES – EXERCISES

1

Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. When did dinosaurs disappear from the face of the Earth? _____

2. Why do animals and plants need each other ? _____

3. Name some natural events that cause species to die out? _____

4. What is a habitat ? _____

5. How do organizations , like the World Wildlife Fund, get their money ? _____

6. Why are elephants killed ? _____

7. Where does the giant panda live ? _____

8. Which bird is the national symbol of the USA ? _____

9. Name a few plants that are in danger of becoming extinct? _____

10. When and by whom was the WWF founded? _____

11. Name a few animals that the WWF wants to protect? _____

12. What habitats does the WWF want to protect? _____

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2

TRUE or FALSE? Decide if the statements are TRUE or FALSE and check them off (✓). If the sentences are FALSE write a correct sentence in the box. The first two have been done for you.

		T	F	Correct Statement
1	In the past decade, the WWF has cleared thousands of acres of forest in South America.		✓	The WWF has been able to conserve over a billion acres of forest in Asia, South America and Africa.
2	The bald eagle almost became extinct .	✓		
3	Leather articles can be made from the skin of a giant panda.			
4	Some cactus types are in danger of becoming extinct because they grow too quickly.			
5	The African elephant has become the symbol of the WWF.			
6	In today's world, most species become extinct because of human beings.			
7	Most tigers in Asia live in reserves.			
8	In Australia, foxes often kill the wrong animals.			
9	The most endangered areas of the world are in deserts.			
10	Deforestation takes away the habitat of plants and animals.			
11	Dinosaurs became extinct during the last Ice Age.			
12	Some plants are used to make medicine.			

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3

Match the words on the left with the definitions on the right.

A	fungi			to get used to a situation
B	species			plant or animal that in another plant or animal and gets food from it
C	blubber			small animal or insect that destroys farm plants
D	adapt			outbreak
E	conservationist			plant that grows on the ground or on other plants
F	habitat			to start something new
G	environment			to make sick or even kill an animal or person
H	found			to live on, exist
I	pollution			to start living in a place where not many people have lived before
J	pest			the fat of a whale
K	roam			an animal like a kangaroo that carries its babies in a pocket
L	survive			natural home of a plant or animal
M	eruption			against the law
N	settle			person who works to protect endangered animals and plants
O	poison			area in which plants and animals are protected
P	illegal			when air, water or the ground gets dangerously dirty
Q	marsupial			wander around without a destination
R	parasite			the world and all of nature around us
S	reserve			a group of animals or plants that are alike

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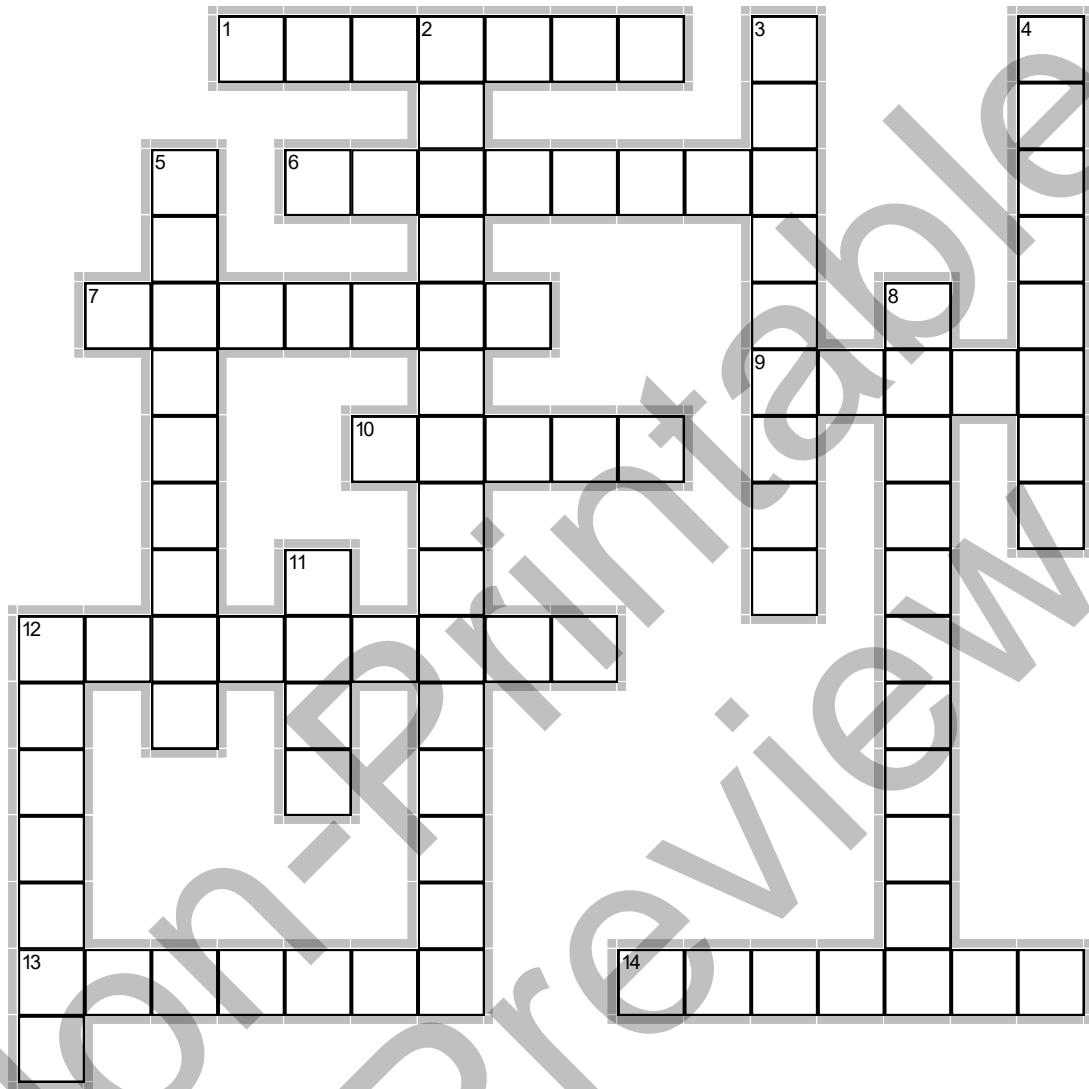
4

**Match the beginnings of the sentences with the sentence endings.
There are TWO endings you will not need.**

A	Some native animals die out		can poison fish in rivers and lakes.
B	When animals and plants move to other habitats		who sell their skin and tusks.
C	In many areas, rainforests are cleared		but today its population is stable.
D	Environmental organizations like the WWF		because people often collect or destroy their eggs.
E	Elephants are killed by poachers		animals and plants have been destroyed
F	Animals and plants need each other		when a new species come to live in a place.
G	Ever since man appeared on earth		while people start hunting them.
H	Climate changes of past eras		try to protect animals and plants all over the world.
I	Together with some fellow scientists and politicians		they adapt very quickly
J	The bald eagle almost became extinct in the US		because they are seen as a threat to farm animals.
K	Sea turtles are in danger of becoming extinct		led to the destruction of many species.
L	Some species are killed by humans		Julian Huxley founded the World Wildlife Fund.
M	Acid rain from industries		to create land for new settlements.
			are funded by government organizations.
			in order to survive.

5

Crossword



Across

- group of animals or plants that are alike
- large animal that became extinct 65 million years ago
- the fat of a whale
- endangered animal that lives in China
- the yellowish-white material that tusks are made of
- situation in which air and water get dangerously dirty
- die out; something that no longer exists
- the natural home of a plant or animal

Down

- someone who works to protect animals and plants
- animal, like a kangaroo, that carries its babies in skin pockets
- rain that has dangerous chemicals, which come from factory smoke or cars, in it (2 words)
- bird that is a symbol of the United States (2 words)
- nature and the world around us
- long, pointed and curved teeth of an elephant
- person who hunts animals illegally

6

Fill in the words from the box to complete the text. There are TWO words you will not need.

African elephants in danger

Africa's elephants are in danger of becoming (1) _____. Increased poaching on the continent is putting Africa's elephants in danger. Last year about 20000 elephants were killed. Especially in central African countries, elephant (2) _____ are down to alarming numbers. In the next ten years the population could be cut by more than quarter.

At the beginning of the 20th (3) _____ there were about 10 million African elephants, now there are about 500 000. The rate of killings is higher than the (4) _____ birth rate.

However, governments in Africa are taking harsh steps to crack down on (5) _____. Kenya and Tanzania have arrested more illegal traders than ever before. Ivory is also confiscated at an increasing rate. Last year 40,000 kilos of (6) _____ were seized, mostly in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. For the first time more ivory was seized in Africa than in Asia, its primary destination. Female elephants are at a higher risk because they have especially large (7) _____.

Conservationists , however, are not so optimistic. They say that even though more ivory is captured, poaching is still on the (8) _____.

The (9) _____ for elephant ivory in China is especially high. It has become even more (10) _____ than gold, selling at thousands of dollars per kilo on Asian markets. In China, ivory is a multi-billion-dollar trade. The expensive material is used in medicine and for (11) _____.

Although the international ivory trade has been banned since 1989, poaching rings have been ruthlessly operating across the (12) _____ of many African countries. Towards the end of the 1990s the ivory ban was somewhat loosened to allow some countries to sell off their stockpiles. Critics see this as a major mistake.

Poverty in many African states lures the local population into taking part in elephant poaching. Soldiers in some countries are reported to be (13) _____ in the killings of elephants.

borders
century
conservation
decorations
demand
extinct
habitat
increase
ivory
natural
participating
poachers
populations
tusks
valuable

7

Fill in the words from the box to complete the text. There are TWO words you will not need.

The World Wildlife Fund

In 1960, (1) _____ Sir Julian Huxley returned from a (2) _____ trip to Africa. He was very much shocked by what he had seen there: the hunting of (3) _____ animals and the destruction of their (4) _____. Other scientists shared his opinion that something had to be done about this. The following year Huxley, some fellow scientists and a few politicians (5) _____ the World Wildlife Fund. It became the largest (6) _____ group in the world.

Today the WWF has 5 million supporters around the world. It has national organizations in more than 50 countries and (7) _____ more than 100 million dollars a year.

The most important (8) _____ of the WWF is to protect endangered species around the world. Among them are the tiger, whale, elephant and many others. The giant panda, one of the most (9) _____ animals, has become the WWF logo.

The WWF also tries to (10) _____ habitats like the tropical rainforest. In the past decade alone, it has been able to conserve over 1 billion acres of forest in Asia, South America and Africa.

The organization fights against the (11) _____ of natural resources and it is worried about the (12) _____ of fish in the world's oceans. Over the past years the WWF has been working on projects in over one hundred countries. It also gives money to research and spends a lot to teach children and parents about our world in danger.

biologist

conservationist

destruction

endangered

extinct

founded

habitat

nature

pollution

protect

raises

rare

research

task



The snow leopard is among the most endangered animals on Earth.

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