

1

Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. When did dinosaurs disappear from the face of the Earth? **65 million years ago**
2. Why do animals and plants need each other ? **to keep nature in balance ; animals depend on plants for food**
3. Name some natural events that cause species to die out? **earthquakes, volcano eruptions**
4. What is a habitat ? **the natural home of a plant or animal**
5. How do organizations , like the World Wildlife Fund, get their money ? **from donations, collecting money from private people**
6. Why are elephants killed ? **for their tusks**
7. Where does the giant panda live ? **China and in zoos around the world**
8. Which bird is the national symbol of the USA ? **the bald eagle**
9. Name a few plants that are in danger of becoming extinct? **Bermuda cedar, cactus types**
10. When and by whom was the WWF founded? **1961 by Sir Julian Huxley**
11. Name a few animals that the WWF wants to protect? **tigers, whales, elephants**
12. What habitats does the WWF want to protect? **rainforests, oceans**

ENDANGERED SPECIES – KEY

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.		✓	Leather articles are made out of reptile skins (crocodile, lizard, alligator).
4	Some cactus types are in danger of becoming extinct because they grow too quickly.		✓	They are endangered because they grow very slowly.
5	The African elephant has become the symbol of the WWF.		✓	The symbol of the WWF is the giant panda.
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.		✓	The most endangered parts are the tropical rainforests and grasslands.
10	Deforestation takes away the habitat of plants and animals.	✓		
11	Dinosaurs became extinct during the last Ice Age.		✓	Dinosaurs became extinct about 65 million years ago.
12	Some plants are used to make medicine.	✓		

ENDANGERED SPECIES – KEY

3

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

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

ENDANGERED SPECIES – KEY

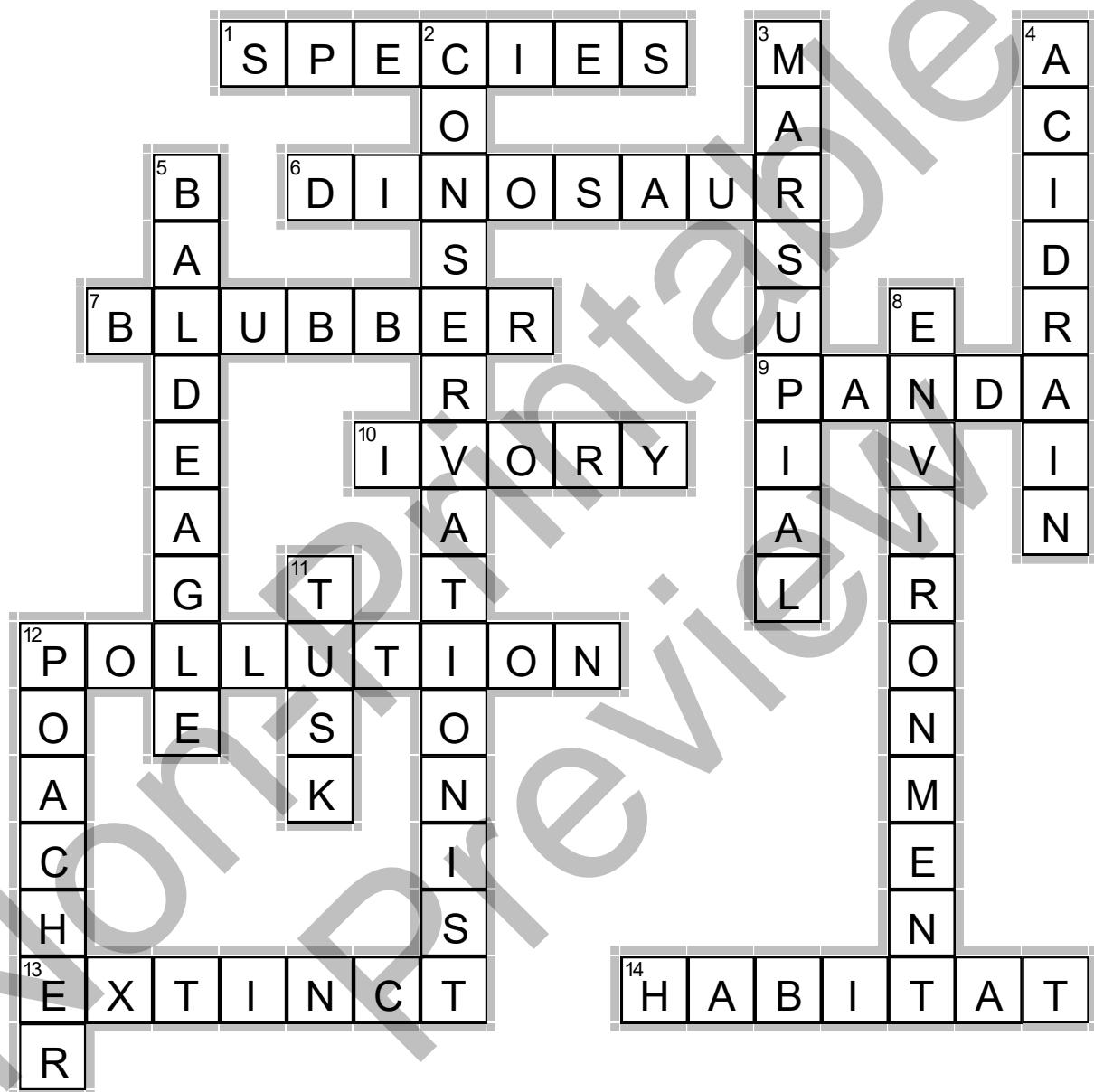
4

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

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

5

Crossword



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) **extinct** .

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) **populations** 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) **century** there were about 10 million African elephants, now there are about 500 000. The rate of killings is higher than the (4) **natural** birth rate.

However, governments in Africa are taking harsh steps to crack down on (5) **poachers**. 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) **ivory** 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) **tusks**.

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

The (9) **demand** for elephant ivory in China is especially high. It has become even more (10) **valuable** 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) **decorations** .

Although the international ivory trade has been banned since 1989, poaching rings have been ruthlessly operating across the (12) **borders** 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) **participating** 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) **biologist** Sir Julian Huxley returned from a (2) **research** trip to Africa. He was very much shocked by what he had seen there: the hunting of (3) **rare** animals and the destruction of their (4) **habitat**. 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) **founded** the World Wildlife Fund. It became the largest (6) **conservationist** 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) **raises** more than 100 million dollars a year.

The most important (8) **task** 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) **endangered** animals, has become the WWF logo.

The WWF also tries to (10) **protect** 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) **pollution** of natural resources and it is worried about the (12) **destruction** 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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