Studio Claremont
a community art studio

Endangered and Vulnerable Animals

LEARN ALL ABOUT THE ANIMALS WE MUST PROTECT, THEN CREATE WONDERFUL ART BASED ON THESE BEAUTIFUL CREATURES

THE KOALA

- Population: 50,000 Koalas are estimated to be left the wild.
- Koala Status: Vulnerable
- Location: Wild koalas are only found in Australia.
- Diet: Koalas eat Eucalyptus leaves which are actually poisonous plants! Don't worry, koalas have a long digestive organ called a cecum which allows them to break down the leaves and stay safe.
- Size: Adult Koalas can weigh up to 30 pounds.
- Biggest Threat: Koalas are threatened by tree loss and global warming. Droughts and high temperatures caused by global warming make Eucalyptus leaves harder to access and create natural disasters like the recent Australia Wildfires.
- Fun Fact: Koalas sleep 18-22 hours a day! They are so tired because the Eucalyptus leaves they feed on have very little nutrients.

THE GIANT PANDA

- Population: 1,864 in the wild
- Panda Status: Vulnerable
- Location: Pandas mostly live in Southwest China
- Diet: Pandas largely eat bamboo and can eat up to 84 pounds of bamboo every single day!
- Size: Newborn pandas are about the size of a stick of butter. Their mothers usually weigh around 200 pounds and their dads can be up to 300 pounds. Most pandas are 4-5 ft tall.
- Biggest threat: Infrastructure development (such as building dams, roads, and railways) is ruining panda's natural environments and isolating panda populations. This prevents pandas from finding new bamboo forests and potential mates to reproduce with.
- Fun fact: Pandas can climb as high as 13,000 ft!

THE TIGER

Continental Tiger and Sunda Tiger

- Population: Around 3,900
- Tiger Status: Endangered
- Location: Tigers naturally live in rain forests, temperate forests, mangrove swamps, grasslands, and savannas in China, Russia, Bhutan, Nepal and India.
- Diet: Tigers are meat eaters and typically hunt alone at night. They can eat up to 80 pounds of meat at a time!
- Size: The Sunda tiger can weigh as much as 310 pounds and a continental tiger can weigh as much as 600 pounds!
- Biggest Threat: Tigers face a lot of pressure from poaching, and great habitat loss as humans expand into the tiger's natural habitats.
- Fun Fact: Since every tiger has their own pattern on their fur, no two tigers have the same stripes. They are all uniquely wonderful, just like humans!

THE BLACK RHINOCEROS

- Population: More than 5,500
- Black Rhino Status: Critically Endangered
- Location: Almost all Black Rhinos live in South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Kenya.
- Diet: Black Rhinos eat leaves and fruit from bushes and trees. These rhinos eat at night or during dawn or dusk when it is not too hot.
- Size: Black Rhinos can weigh anywhere between 1,760 - 3,080 pounds!
- Biggest Threat: Black Rhinos are threatened by poachers who sell their rhino horn illegally.
- Fun Fact: Black Rhinos roll in mud to protect themselves from bugs and the sun. The mud is like their sunscreen!

THE ASIAN ELEPHANT

- Population: Less than 50,000
- Asian Elephant Status: Endangered
- Location: Asian elephants live in wet forests and grasslands in 13 different countries from South and Southeast Asia.
- Diet: Asian elephants eat grasses, tree bark, roots, leaves, and small stems.
- Size: Asian elephants can weigh as much as 11,000 pounds and can be anywhere from 6.5 ft to 11.5 ft tall.
- Biggest Threat: The biggest threat to Asian elephants is habitat loss and fragmentation. With human development on the rise, elephants have experienced significant habitat loss and separation from other elephants. In addition, elephants are threatened by poachers.
- Fun Fact: Elephants are really intelligent animals. They are known to show compassion, mimicry, grief, and self-awareness, just like humans!

THE CHIMPANZEE

- Population: 172,700 to 299,700
- Chimpanzee Status: Endangered
- Location: Chimpanzees naturally live in forests, woodlands, and grasslands and can commonly be found in Central Africa.
- Diet: Chimps have a ton of variety in their diet and are one of the only known species to use tools to get their food. They can use sticks to find termites from mounds, stones to smash open nuts, and leaves to collect drinking water.
- Size: Chimps can range in height from 4 to 5.5 feet and weigh anywhere from 70-130 pounds.
- Biggest Threat: Chimpanzees are threatened by habitat loss and hunting.
- Fun Fact: Although they normally walk on all four legs, chimps can stand upright and walk on two legs for up to 1 mile!

What can we do to help these animals?

1. Protect wildlife habitats. Habitat loss is one of the biggest causes of extinction. Volunteer to maintain a local nature reserve, campaign against deforestation or create a space for nature in your garden.

2. Educate others. People are more likely to want to save animals if they know about them. Spend time doing some research and spread the word.

3. Stay away from pesticides and herbicides. Animals are venerable to pollutants that can build up in the environment and can die.

4. Shop ethically. Avoid buying products made from endangered animals, such as rhino horns.

5. Be an ethical tourist. We all love spending time with animals, but the rise of animal experiences abroad is endangering the lives of many animals. Often they are treated cruelly and kept in unsatisfactory conditions. Do a lot of researcher before you pick your animal activity.

6. Reduce, reuse, and recycle! Limit your footprint on the planet by using less plastic, reusing as much as you can, and limiting your consumer waste.

Sources

All information shared in these slides has been sourced from...

World Wild Life Fund

www.wwf.org

National Geographic

nationalgeographic.com

One Kind Planet

onekindplanet.org

All of these organizations take donations to help these causes. Visit their websites for more information.

NOW FOR SOME ART...

Now that we have learned all about endangered and vulnerable animals,
it's time to do some art inspired by these beautiful creatures.

Click on the Skooldoodle blog for all the animal projects you can do at home!