

AP Biology—Biodiversity and Extinction Research Project

Extinction is a normal occurrence in ecosystems throughout the world. Ecologists have estimated that as much as 99% of all species that have ever lived on the earth have gone extinct. In ecosystems, extinction tends to open new niches for the evolution of organisms to occur. Although extinction is the norm in nature, scientists are very concerned with the current loss of biodiversity because of the **rate** of extinction. There is a strong correlation between human population and activities and the current rate of species extinction. Those species that are in danger of becoming extinct in all or most of their native range are said to be **ENDANGERED**. Those species that are likely to become endangered in all or most of their range if current trends continue are said to be **THREATENED**. In this activity, you will research an endangered species that is common to North America and present a Power-point slide show of your information about this organism. You will upload this presentation to my “Put” folder when you are done.

Information you must include in your presentation:

1. Species common and scientific name (*Genus/species*)
2. Species habitat at **all** times of year and **all** times during life
3. Species niche:
 - a. Average size/mass
 - b. Ecological role
 - c. Mating season (s)
 - d. Birthing season(s)
 - e. Specific nutritional requirements (including prey species)
 - f. Predators
 - g. Competitors
 - h. Five adaptations for survival in their natural habitat
4. Estimated past and current range
5. Estimated past and current population size
6. Specific cause of the organism’s decline
7. Effects of decline on **other** species in its habitat
8. Future outlook for this species
9. Possible solutions to the problem

*I have included a few websites that may help you get started with your research

Your power-point must include:

1. Maximum of ten slides
 2. Maximum of ten words per slide (this means you will likely have to prepare note cards, etc.)
 3. At least one picture of organism
 4. At least one picture of habitat
- **You must find your own endangered species!**
 - **Each student must research a different Endangered Species!**