Lessons 11–12 Endangered species

- What animals can you think of that are endangered or extinct?
- How do species become extinct?



Reading

1 Look at the names of the animals in the box. Which animals are being described in the magazine article?

hawksbill turtle sand cat
Arabian oryx dugong
Arabian leopard
Arabian tahr houbara bustard







1. _____ Threat level: _____

According to some reports, there are only about 250 Arabian leopards in the wild. There was a time when this species of cat roamed extensively across the Arabian Peninsula, but now they are heading for extinction. This animal has suffered as a direct result of a decline in numbers of its prey – the mountain gazelle and the Arabian tahr. Having been hunted illegally, these beautiful animals have dramatically dropped in number.

2. _____ Threat level: _____

The islands of Marawah and Bu Tina to the west of Abu Dhabi are favourite feeding grounds for this non-native marine mammal, thought to be the source of the mermaid myth. Having suffered the effects of water pollution and getting tangled in fishing nets, this species is now in danger. This is compounded by the fact that the 'sea cow', by which it is also known, is notoriously slow to reproduce.

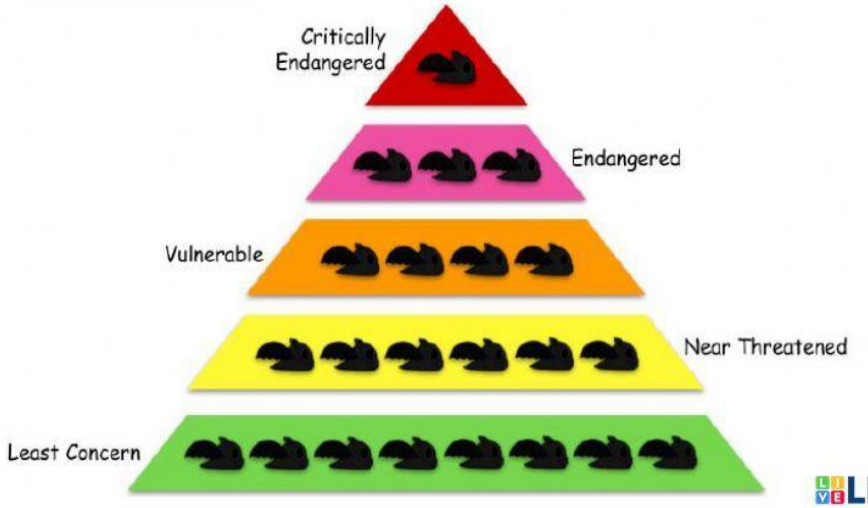
3. _____ Threat level: _____

The entire world population of this species is found in the mountains of northern Oman and the UAE and is thought to number less than 5000. Competing with livestock and being the victim of illegal hunting, these animals are not often seen these days. In the UAE, populations are localised. By isolating themselves, they will be more susceptible to disease caused by inbreeding.

4. _____ Threat level: _____

In the UAE, this felid is probably limited to the Liwa area. It is quite an elusive animal but several reports suggest its numbers have dwindled over the last few years. By expanding agricultural areas into the desert, farmers have reduced this nocturnal animal's habitat and hunting territory. Although not thought of as a threat to livestock, this 'true desert' feline is often caught in traps set for other predators. Satisfying market demands for exotic pets has also contributed to declining numbers.

Threat levels:



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