

Reading Task 2: The Fight to Save Species

Reading Passage: Causes and Solutions for Extinction

An **endangered species** is a group of animals or plants that is at high risk of **extinction**—the process where all members of a species die out permanently. The reasons for this crisis are complex, but most are driven by human activity.

The most significant cause is **habitat destruction**. As human populations grow and require more space for housing, roads, and farms, forests and natural landscapes are cleared. This removes the animal's home and its food sources, leaving them with nowhere to go. Pollution further contaminates these habitats; for instance, factory chemicals in rivers can poison water sources and kill aquatic life.

Another major threat is **poaching** and illegal hunting. Animals like the Arabian Oryx were hunted almost to extinction because of the demand for their meat and skins. Similarly, other species are killed for tusks, horns, or bones used in traditional medicine, driving down populations dramatically.

However, there is hope. **Conservation** efforts are often successful. Individuals can help by avoiding products made from endangered animals and supporting wildlife charities. Governments play a crucial role by making it **illegal** to hunt or trade in endangered species and by funding animal sanctuaries. Such global initiatives and legal protections have successfully brought species, like the Arabian Oryx, back from the brink of extinction.

Task 1: Detail Comprehension (True/False/Not Given): Read the statements and mark them T (True), F (False), or NG (Not Given).

1. A species that is extinct can never be brought back.
2. Habitat destruction is considered the most common reason for endangerment.
3. The Arabian Oryx population has completely recovered and is no longer vulnerable.
4. Conservation efforts are typically not effective at increasing endangered animal populations.
5. One way factory pollution harms animals is by changing the pH of river water.

Task 2: Sentence Completion: Complete the sentences below with a maximum of three words from the reading passage.

1. When all members of a species die out permanently, it is called _____.
2. Building new houses and roads is an example of _____.
3. _____ is a major threat driven by the demand for animal parts.
4. In addition to making hunting illegal, governments can help by funding _____.

Task 3: Matching Headings: The passage is divided into two sections. Match the best heading for each section (Paragraph 2 & 3 and Paragraph 4).

Heading A	Heading B
A. Human Activity: The Principal Threats	B. A Path to Recovery: Solutions and Success

1. Paragraphs 2 & 3 (The most significant cause is... / Another major threat is...):

2. Paragraph 4 (However, there is hope...):

OpenAI. (2025). *ChatGPT* (Dec 30 version) [Large language model].

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