

School: 20th Primary School of Kalamaria, Greece

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Let's Take Care of the Animals

Ex. 1. Discuss with your group and answer briefly.

a) Do you know what the threats to wildlife are?.....

.....

b) Can you think of some species which are endangered?.....

.....

c) Do you know any species which are extinct?

.....

.....

Ex. 2 In groups, a) discuss the meaning of the vocabulary in bold and b) complete the text with the words in the box.

chemicals, extinction, deforestation, species, plastic, destroy, habitat, threats, horn, biodiversity

The threats to wildlife

Wildlife faces some very serious threats because of human activities. The most serious 1) are poaching, habitat destruction, deforestation, climate change, overexploitation, invasive species, agriculture, and pollution. The survival of human beings depends on a healthy balance between **human activities** and the **natural environment**.

Our planet's nature is rich in 2) This refers to all the variety of life, animals, plants, insects, and their habitats. There is a delicate balance in nature that all species including ours depend on to survive, for example, without bees to pollinate trees we would not have any fruit or nuts. The way we grow our food, produce energy, dispose of waste, and consume our planet's resources is destroying the natural balance. It is very important that we protect it.

The activities of human beings endanger the survival of many 3) of animals and plants around the world today. Animals and plants are often **removed** from their natural **habitat** because it is difficult for them to find enough food for their survival. A serious cause for this is **habitat destruction**. This may happen by 4) The trees of a forest area are cut down for timber or to create farms, roads, or new urban areas. Nearly all habitat destruction is caused by the growth of **agriculture**. People 5) the forests and wild



grasslands to grow crops and raise farm animals. The wildlife can no longer live there.

Climate change is another serious threat. A change in climate may affect the vegetation that grows, and this might mean there isn't enough for the animals to eat, or it may mean the animals can't safely nest or build homes. Often, they need to **migrate** to a new 6) Scientists agree that climate change is happening too fast for the species to adapt and survive. For example, polar bears, arctic seals, and penguins are at risk of extinction because of climate change caused by **global warming**.



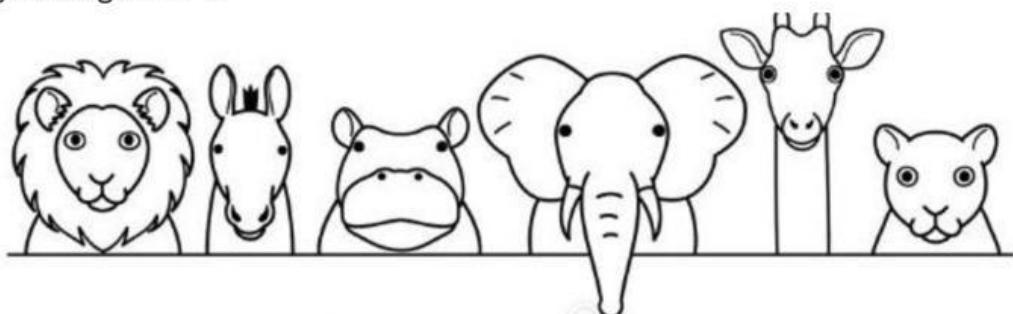
Another threat to animals is **overexploitation**. An example of this is poaching. This means hunting and capturing animals illegally. The rhino is poached for its 7) and elephants for their ivory. **Over hunting** and **overfishing** are also examples of overexploitation. The animals and fish are hunted for food and other human purposes, for example fur coats, snakeskin shoes, crocodile skin bags, pets etc. They are hunted to the point where they do not have enough time to grow back in numbers. This leads to 8) and the delicate balance in the ecosystem is broken because when a species becomes extinct, a part of the food chain is missing. Then, other species are affected and may also become extinct.



Invasive species are also a serious threat to the wildlife of a region. They spread into a natural environment, where they do not belong, by human activity such as tourism and trade. An example of an invasive species is the lionfish. It is a species native to the South – Pacific Ocean and in recent years (from 1991) it has been spotted in the Mediterranean Sea.



Another serious threat is pollution. It threatens the biodiversity of our planet. All forms of pollution affect the health and survival of wildlife. For example, air pollution threatens birds. Acid rain threatens fish in lakes and streams. It can cause **extinction** of a species and **decrease** the biodiversity. Water pollution caused by 9) which enter streams and lakes e.g., pesticides and fertilizers kill fish and affect the health of birds. Thousands of seabirds and sea turtles and other marine animals are killed each year after **ingesting** 10) or getting entangled in it.



Ex. 3. Match the word with its definition (10 min)

1. natural environment	..... A group of similar organisms that are able to reproduce.
2. biodiversity	..... The act of using too much of something e.g. overfishing, over hunting.
3. habitat	..... This is another word for farming. It includes growing crops and raising farm animals.
4. habitat destruction	..... All the living and non-living things that exist in a region naturally, not man-made.
5. species	..... This is the illegal hunting, killing or capturing of animals.
6. endangered species	..... This is created mainly by human activities. It makes Earth dirty and unhealthy. It can be found in the air, the land and the water.
7. extinction	..... The natural home or environment of an animal where it lives, finds its food, finds a mate, and reproduces.
8. agriculture	..... This is when a habitat is destroyed and no longer able to support the plants, animals, or other organisms that live in it.
9. overexploitation	..... This is the variety of the different types of plants and animals that exist in a particular area or in the world generally.
10. overfishing	..... The Increase of greenhouse gases and global warming affects and changes the Earth's climate system.
11. poaching	..... The dying out of a species, forever disappearing from the wild.
12. climate change	..... Humans catch so many fish that the species cannot grow back, it decreases in numbers until it becomes extinct.
13. global warming	..... A species, which is not extinct, but it is in danger of becoming extinct.
14. pollution	..... This means meeting the needs of our generation in a way that allows the future generations to meet their needs, too.
15. sustainability	..... This is caused by human activities which make the Earth hotter and hotter.

Follow Up tasks:

The students work in groups.

In all tasks students must incorporate phrases, quotes or key words from the story "The Little Prince"

Choose one of the three tasks

Task 1

Take an interview (reporter – endangered animal) or create a comic strip. Imagine *you are* an endangered animal. Give this animal a *voice*. Consider the following questions:

Who are you and where do you live?

What dangers do you face?

How does that make you feel?

How do you feel about the way humans are using the planet's resources?

What are you afraid of?

What is your message to humans?

Task 2

Create a poster to raise awareness for people to help protect wildlife

Task 3

Write a story about an endangered animal (you can write about a day in its life)

The groups discuss and decide which task they will do