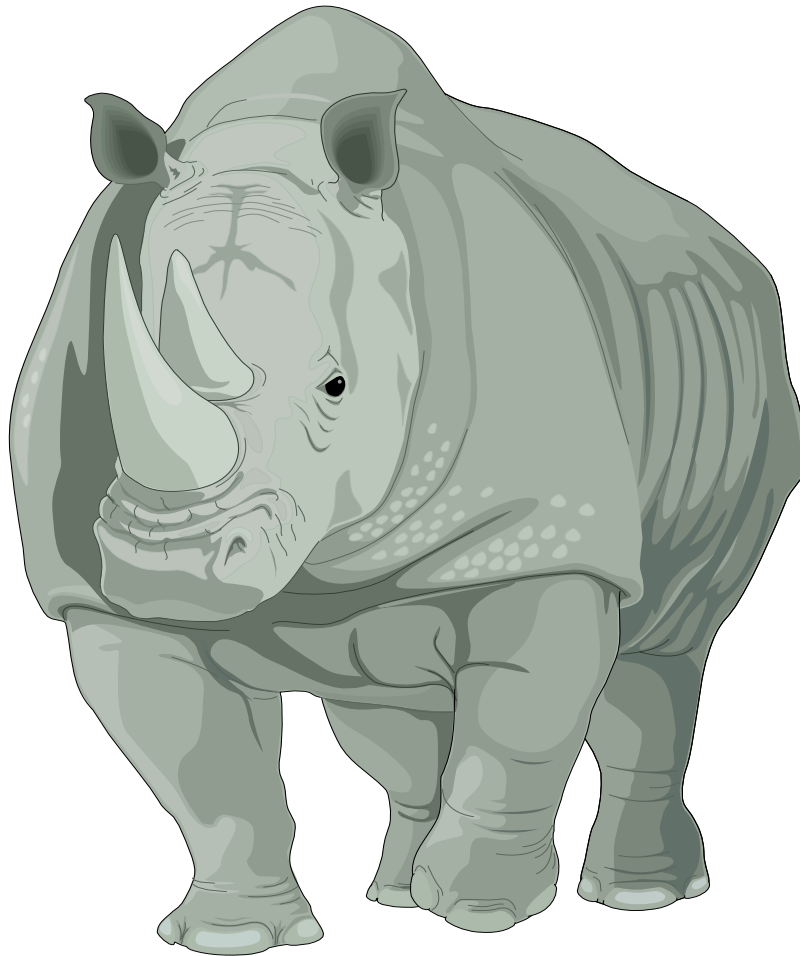


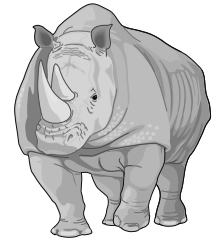
# **ENDANGERED SPECIES**

**Scavenger Hunt  
GRADES 4-8**



**Saint Louis Zoo**  
**Animals Always®**

Saint Louis Zoo  
**ENDANGERED SPECIES**  
Scavenger Hunt Teacher's Guide  
**Updated Summer 2008**



Because the animals at the Zoo are living creatures with very special needs, at certain times some of the animals referred to in this scavenger hunt may not be on public display. **Please remind your student to do their best to complete the hunt by carefully observing the animals they find and not to worry about any that are off display.** We update our scavenger hunts on an annual basis during the summer months to be able to provide you with the most accurate information about our animals.

**ANSWER KEY**  
**TIME: 120 MINUTES**

1. d
2. b
3. d
4. By observing older chimps and then mimicking them.
- 5a. Human beings
- 5b. Human beings
6. Horned Guan
7. The snake became its predator
8. Arabian oryx
9. Human beings
10. b
11. b
12. a
13. Madagascar (Africa)
14. Answers may vary.
15. Answers may vary
16. answers may vary
17. to avoid inbreeding or similar answer
18. Africa
19. Their shoulder blades are not attached to their collar bone to allow smoother stride, oversized heart and lungs for greater oxygen distribution, long tail for balance, long legs, slender body, light weight, and semi-retractable claws for traction.
20. Hunting and Habitat destruction
21. Modified river flow, Drained wetland nurseries, and polluted water.
22. They will become endangered or extirpated
23. Habitat destruction.

## **BACKGROUND**

Here are some facts that you should review with your students before coming to the zoo.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature is one of the main governing bodies for endangered species. They have been assessing the status of threatened species for over four decades. They have developed criteria that are used to determine the level of conservation concern. Some of the criteria used are: population size, number of breeding adults, territory size, and location. However, the main factor is large changes in any of the criteria. Using this criteria, the IUCN has created categories that rank species based on their immediate need for conservation efforts.

The IUCN Categories

**Extinct:** there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died.

**Extinct in the Wild:** Known to exist in captivity or as a naturalized population outside of its past range

**Critically Endangered:** faces an extremely high risk of imminent extinction in the wild

**Endangered:** faces a very high risk of extinction in the wild

**Vulnerable:** faces a high risk of extinction in the wild

**Near Threatened:** close to qualifying for or likely to qualify for critically endangered, endangered, or vulnerable categories.

**Least Concern:** widespread and abundant

The main reason for many of the declines in species is humans. Humans are responsible for loss of habitat, loss of food sources, loss of shelter, poaching, illegal hunting, elimination of animals that interfere with human interests such as farming, and capture for the pet trade. Where these activities are most prevalent is in developing countries, because of high rates of poverty and a focus on subsistence for today not for the future. Students need to be aware throughout the scavenger hunt that humans have been responsible for the plight of most of these animals.



## FRAGILE FOREST / JUNGLE OF THE APES

1. **Orangutans** are often sought after by the pet trade because they are cute as youngsters. What do you think is the easiest way to capture the young?
  - a. trap them in a net
  - b. lure them away from the parent with food
  - c. tranquilize them
  - d. shoot the parent and take the young orangutan
2. More people are moving closer and closer to the areas where **gorillas** live. That means the gorillas have less room in which to live and search for food. We call this
  - a. vulnerability
  - b. habitat destruction
  - c. extinction
  - d. mass destruction
3. All of these things threaten the survival of the apes except
  - a. poaching
  - b. habitat destruction
  - c. exportation (pet trade)
  - d. fights with other apes over females
4. How do **Chimpanzees** learn to use tools?

5a. Which of the four primates in the **Fragile forest / Jungle of the Apes** is not endangered? (Hint: It is the one that isn't in an enclosure.)

5b. Which of the four primates in the **Fragile forest / Jungle of the Apes** has caused the most damage to the habitats of the other three? (Hint: It's the one that isn't in an enclosure.)

*LEAVE THE FRAGILE FOREST / JUNGLE OF THE APES AND MAKE YOUR WAY TO THE BIRD HOUSE.*

## THE BIRD HOUSE

6. Because of habitat loss and hunting, there are fewer than 1,000 of these beautiful, horned South American birds left in the wild. (Hint: it is located in the very center of the bird house)

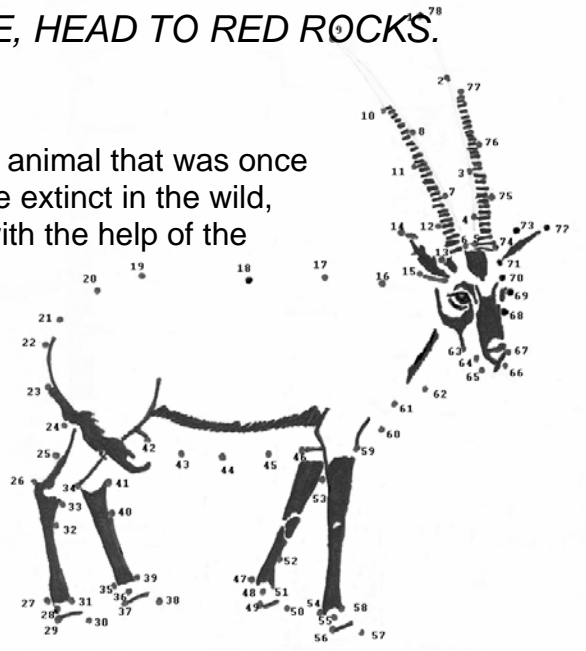
---

(name)

7. The tree dwelling Marianas Fruit Dove can no longer be found on the island of Guam because of human's introduction of the brown snake to the island. Why would this have caused the bird's extinction on the island?

WHEN YOU LEAVE THE BIRD HOUSE, HEAD TO RED ROCKS.  
**RED ROCKS**

8. Complete the dot-to-dot to reveal an Asian animal that was once hunted for its meat and as a trophy. It became extinct in the wild, but has now been successfully reintroduced with the help of the Saint Louis Zoo. Name this animal below.



HINT: This animal lives in the desert where its white coat reflects the sun's rays.

9. **Transcaspian urials** are characterized by their massive horns and strong, speedy legs, but these adaptations do not protect them from what predator?

X	A	D	D	A	E	N	A	R	C
R	N	I	W	D	M	T	O	K	D
G	A	Z	E	L	L	E	K	B	E
S	R	J	U	F	S	M	A	W	D
R	E	T	V	H	A	B	P	H	O
E	P	H	F	O	I	D	I	L	O
I	F	G	A	R	D	N	E	X	H
V	C	B	U	W	H	I	B	Y	S
U	G	S	E	M	W	I	N	R	K
C	A	R	A	B	I	A	N	O	R

Find these endangered hoofed mammals in the Seek 'n Find at the left:

- ARABIAN ORYX**
- HOODED CRANE**
- OKAPI**
- CUIVERS GAZELLE**
- ADDAX**

*Double-worded entries are connected, but the second word goes in another direction.*

WHEN YOU LEAVE RED ROCKS, GO TO BIG CAT COUNTRY.

**BIG CAT COUNTRY**

10. Sometimes an animal is not displaced by habitat destruction but its prey is. When the **jaguar** has no natural prey, it hunts livestock. What do you think happens next?

- a. the farmer/rancher moves away
- b. the jaguars get killed by the farmer
- c. the jaguars start eating plants
- d. the jaguars eat the farmer

11. **Snow leopards** and **tigers** are also considered predators of domestic livestock, but like the **jaguar**, they are hunted for another reason. If you look at them closely, you can probably tell what that reason is.

- a. they make good pets
- b. their fur/skin brings a good price
- c. they have babies often
- d. they have pointed teeth

12. The **puma** is not extinct, but it is **extirpated** in Missouri. Can you guess what **extirpated** means?

- a. no longer living in that area
- b. not enough information available to determine its status
- c. no longer living anywhere
- d. on the verge of extinction

WHEN YOU LEAVE BIG CAT COUNTRY, GO TO THE PRIMATE HOUSE.

## THE PRIMATE HOUSE

13. All the **lemurs** you will see at the **Primate House** are endangered for much the same reason. They live on the same land mass and their habitat is being lumbered or cleared to make way for farmland. Circle the island where they live and write its name. What continent is this island part of?



14. What is the Saint Louis Zoo doing for Lemurs and their habitat?

*EXIT THE PRIMATE HOUSE AND TURN LEFT. HEAD DOWN THE HILL, PASS THE LAKESIDE CAFÉ, AND CROSS THE RAILROAD TRACKS. TURN LEFT, WALK PAST THE LIVING WORLD AND CHILDREN'S ZOO. YOU WILL NOW BE CLOSE TO THE RIVER'S EDGE. FOLLOW THE YELLOW HIPPO TRACKS TO THE ENTRANCE.*

## **THE RIVER'S EDGE**

15. As you walk through the **River's Edge**, pick two animals that are endangered and describe what you think has caused their decline.

### **Behind the Scenes Animal Health Care and Research at the Zoo**

16. What are some ways zoo veterinarians help endangered animals? List at least three.

17. Why is it important to manage breeding in zoo animal populations, especially endangered animals? If you don't know, guess. To learn more about why it is important, look up puppy mills on the web.

### **Conservation School**

18. Discover how you can tell a cheetah and a leopard apart. Where are cheetahs located?

19. What physical adaptations do cheetahs have that allow them to run fast?

## **Asian Elephants**

20. There are two major reasons for the endangerment of wild elephants. What do you think these reasons are?

## **Missouri**

21. Observe the Mississippi River fish tank. The Mississippi is the third largest river in the world. However, fish numbers are declining. Why?

22. What will happen to Missouri's native animal species as our population grows?

23. What is the most common reason for endangerment?