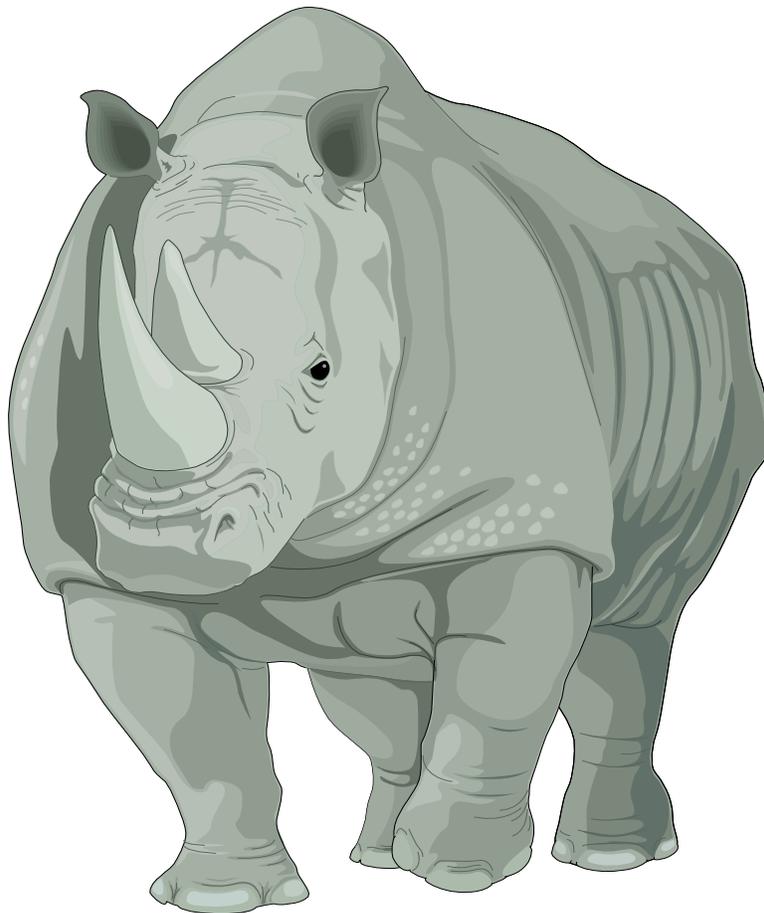


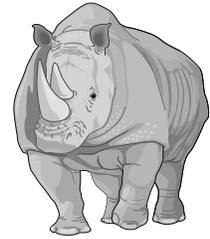
ENDANGERED SPECIES

Scavenger Hunt
GRADES 4-8



Saint Louis Zoo
Animals Always[®]

Saint Louis Zoo
ENDANGERED SPECIES
Scavenger Hunt Teacher's Guide
Updated Summer 2012



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: 90 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. Beautiful plumage and outgoing personality
8. Human beings
9. b
10. b
11. a
12. Madagascar (Africa)
13. Answers may vary.
14. Answers may vary
15. answers may vary
16. to avoid inbreeding or similar answer
17. Africa
18. 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.
19. Poaching and Habitat destruction/Human encroachment
20. Modified river flow, Drained wetland nurseries, and polluted water.
21. They will become endangered or extirpated

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. remove the mother 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. There are fewer than 60 Bali Mynahs left in the wild due to habitat loss and capture for the pet trade. Why would people want to keep these birds as pets?

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

RED ROCKS

8. **Transcaspians** are characterized by their massive horns and strong, speedy legs, but these adaptations do not protect them from all species. What abundant animal might still be able to hunt urials? (Hint: look in a mirror.)

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

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

BONGO
BANTENG
OKAPI
SPEKE'S 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

9. 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 farmer tries to kill the jaguar
- c. the jaguar starts eating plants
- d. the jaguar eats the farmer

10. **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

11. The **African Lion** is not extinct, but it is **extirpated** in Northern Africa. 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

12. 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?



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

EXIT THE PRIMATE HOUSE AND MAKE YOUR WAY DOWN HISTORIC HILL, HEADING TOWARDS THE SOUTH ENTRANCE. CONTINUE PAST THE SOUTH ENTRANCE ON THE PATH TOWARD THE RAILROAD STATION AND CROSS THE RAILROAD TRACKS. ENTER THE RIVER'S EDGE.

THE RIVER'S EDGE

14. As you walk through the **River's Edge**, pick two animals that you think are endangered and describe what you think has caused their decline. (Hint: think about what caused the other animals you've seen to become endangered.)

Behind the Scenes Animal Health Care and Research at the Zoo

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

16. Why is it important to manage breeding in zoo animal populations, especially endangered animals? If you don't know, guess.

Conservation School

17. Discover how you can tell a cheetah and a leopard apart. Where are cheetahs located in the wild?

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

Asian Elephants

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

Missouri

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

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