

# Endangered Species Poster Session

## 4-H Project:

Endangered Species

## Life Skill:

Processing information

## National Education Standard:

NS.K-4.3 Life Science,  
Organisms and Their  
Environments

## Success Indicator:

Make a poster of endangered  
species.

## Time Involved:

30–40 minutes

## Suggested Group Size:

2–20 children

**A**n endangered species is a plant, animal, or flower whose survival in a certain area is in danger due to something in their habitat that is causing their decline. In this activity, children will become aware of endangered species, learn why they are endangered and learn how to protect them.

## Getting started

**R**ead through the lesson and gather the necessary materials. If you need more information about the topic, refer to the “Background Information”.

## Do the Activity

1. Explain the term endangered species to the children (see “Background Information”). Some examples of endangered species are pandas, cacti, and spotted owls.
2. Show children pictures of several endangered species and explain why they are endangered.
3. Divide children into groups of 2 or 3.
4. Give each group markers and one piece of poster board.
5. Assign each group of children one of the endangered species you discussed.
6. Ask the groups to draw a picture of the species they were assigned on half of the poster board.
7. On the other half, have them list two ideas to help keep the species from becoming extinct.
8. Have each group share their poster with the rest of the children and explain their ideas for saving the species.
9. Hang or display the posters where they can be seen easily.



## Materials Needed

- Magazines, pictures, newspaper articles about endangered species (species from your area if possible)
- Poster boards (1 sheet for each group)
- Markers (enough to divide between groups)
- Scissors (enough to divide between groups)

This online “bonus” activity is part of the *Exploring the Treasures of 4-H* curriculum. © 2005, National 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System.

See [www.n4hccs.org/exploring4h](http://www.n4hccs.org/exploring4h) for more information.



# Endangered Species

The term endangered is used by international and national organizations to define plants and animals currently in danger of becoming extinct. It is common knowledge that many animals and birds no longer exist or are close to disappearing. These, along with at least 200 plants and flowers are called “endangered species.” There are many different reasons why these species have become endangered, including change in habitat, disease or predation (being eaten).

## Talking it Over

### Share What You Did:

- What did you learn about endangered species by completing this activity?

### Process What’s Important:

- How would the environment change if these species disappeared?

### Generalize to Your Life:

- What changes can everyone make to prevent more species from becoming endangered?

### Apply What You Learned:

- What other things can you think of that might be in danger if not properly cared for?

In most cases, the factors causing an organism to become endangered are human-related. Things that may contribute to the extinction of various plants and animals include:

- acid rain (rain with increased acidity caused by pollution in the air combining with rain water)
- greenhouse effect (warming effect on earth’s atmosphere that occurs when the sun’s radiation of short wavelength passes through the atmosphere)
- taking long showers
- using only one side of a piece of paper instead of the front and back
- driving short distances when you could walk or ride a bike
- over-fishing a particular body of water and/or a specific type of fish
- deforestation (clearing large forests to free the land for other purposes, such as agriculture)
- poaching (illegally hunting endangered animals)
- habitat destruction
- throwing glass and aluminum containers in the garbage instead of recycling.

Endangered species require immediate assistance in order to avoid extinction. Some ways these species can be protected includes habitat restoration, controlling the predator population, or breeding in captivity. Protecting endangered species works! One famous endangered bird, the bald eagle, was recently taken off the endangered species list.

You can help prevent extinction of plants and animals by:

- recycling aluminum cans, glass, plastic and paper
- conserving water
- using cloth instead of paper napkins
- carpooling
- writing legislators in support of laws to protect all plants and animals
- planting trees
- turning off lights, radios, televisions, computers, etc. when you leave the room
- walking or bicycling instead of driving
- disposing of paint, pesticides, and car oil properly
- using canvas bags for carrying groceries home instead of paper or plastic
- buying items made out of recycled paper.

## Activity Summary

Many species of plants and animals are endangered. That means that the species may completely disappear within an area, or even disappear from the world. These species require help, or extinction is probable. By getting involved you can all help in some way!

## More Challenges



Plan an exhibit for your school or community about endangered species. The exhibit could include posters, poems, stories or a scrapbook about several different species.