

**Endangered Animals**  
**2nd Edition**

A We Both Read Book  
Level 2  
Guided Reading Level: L

With special thanks to Brooke Wagner, Ph.D. for her review  
of the information in this book

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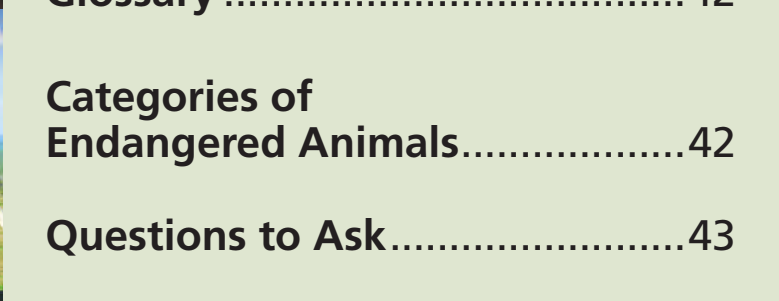
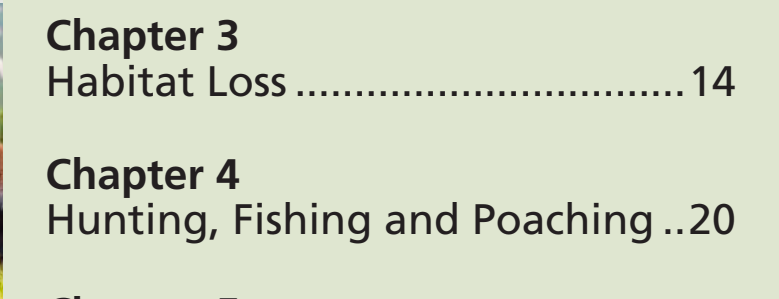
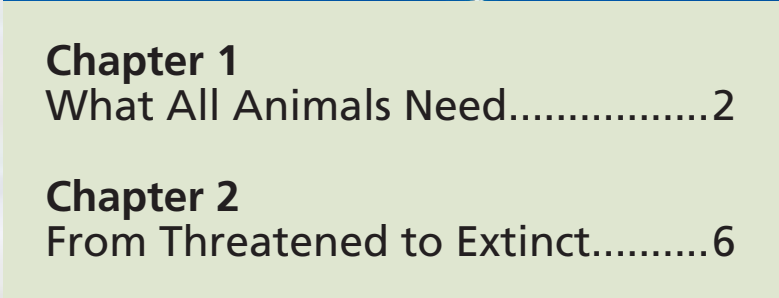
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Brown bear &amp; cubs



Robin family




American bison (buffalo)




Three-toed sloth



Red fox cub

 The world is full of animals. Go to a forest or a beach or even your own backyard and you will see all kinds of creatures. They are very busy finding and eating food, building homes, hiding from danger, and taking care of their young.

 Animals live almost everywhere—in grass, in trees, underwater, even underground and in dark dens. All animals need food to eat and clean water to drink. They also need a safe place to live and sleep.



Honey bee



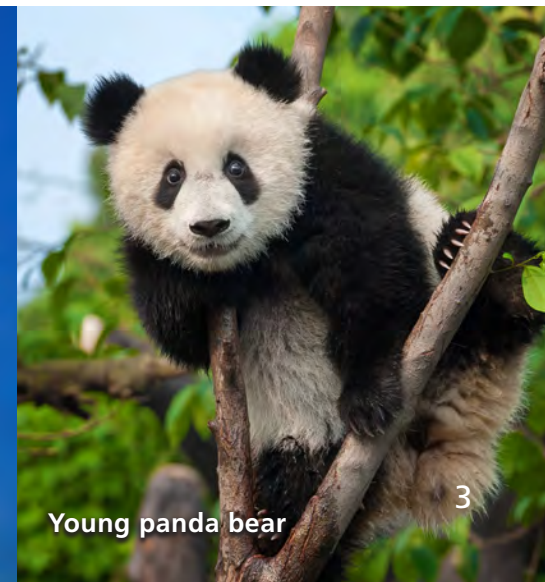
Grey long-eared bat



Ghost crab



Hawksbill sea turtle



Young panda bear





For some animals, finding food, water, and a safe home is easy. This squirrel lives in a tree in a park. She drinks from a nearby creek and eats the nuts and fruit that grow in the trees. The park is big, so she has lots of space where she can search for food and play. Even if a dog runs after her, she can scamper up a tree trunk and be safe.



American red squirrel



Eurasian red squirrel



If all the trees in the park were cut down, the squirrel would have no home. It would be hard for her to find food. If a dog ran after her, she wouldn't have a place to hide.





Brachiosaurus



Tyrannosaurus rex

☞ When animals cannot find enough food or water or a safe place to live, they often die. When all of one kind of animal dies, we say the animal species is **extinct**. Long ago, the animals in these pictures lived in various parts of the world, but now they are all **extinct**.



Pterodactyl

Tyrannosaurus rex

Giant sauropod



Woolly mammoths

☞ There are many ways for animals to become **extinct**. It can get much too cold or hot for the animals to live. Water can dry up. Plants that the animals eat can die. An animal that is extinct is gone for all time.





Dodo bird & nest

☞ Sometimes animals become extinct because of what people do. Dodo birds lived until a few hundred years ago but only on a faraway island near India.

Dodos were very gentle birds that could not fly. Since the dodos didn't have any natural predators on their island, the dodos were not frightened by the sailors who arrived in 1505.

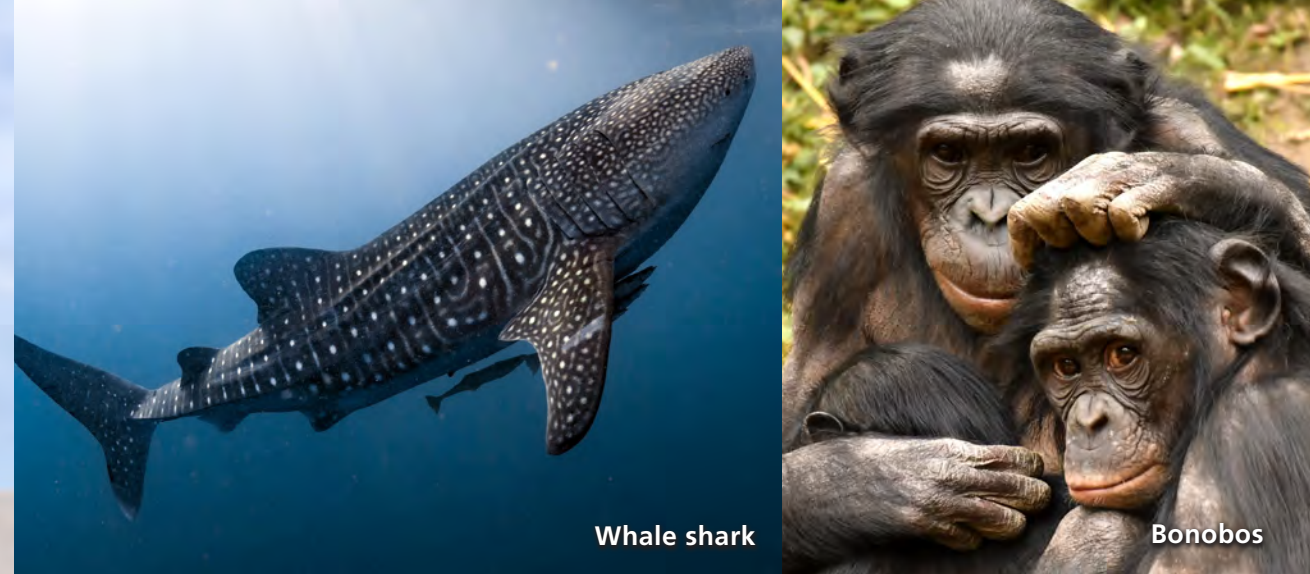
☞ Soon more people came on boats with dogs and rats. The dodos did not run away from them. The people killed the dodos for food. The rats and dogs ate dodo eggs.

The last dodo died in 1681. Dodos are now extinct.



☹ It has been over 300 years since the last dodo existed on Earth, and many other animals have become extinct since then. The last known western black rhino was spotted in 2006. The last-known two of the northern white rhino, both females, live in an animal conservancy in Kenya. When they die, their species will become extinct too.

Northern white rhinoceros



Whale shark

Bonobos



Puffins

☹ There are many other animals in danger of becoming extinct. People cutting down forests, building on open lands, and polluting the water and air are some of the reasons for this.



## Endangered Animals

- VU** vulnerable
- EN** endangered
- CE** critically endangered
- EW** extinct in the wild



Siberian tiger **EN**



Snow leopard **VU**



Hyacinth macaw **VU**



Mountain gorilla **EN**



Manatee **VU**



Hawksbill sea turtle **CE**

- 🗨️ Animal species in danger of becoming extinct fall into four main categories: (1) vulnerable – may go extinct in the next 100 years; (2) **endangered** – could go extinct within 20 years; (3) critically **endangered** – having a high likelihood of going extinct within 10 years; and (4) extinct in the wild – the only surviving animals are in zoos, aquariums, or animal preserves.

- 🗨️ It is sad that some animals are **endangered**, but at least there is hope. If we work together to make sure endangered animals can have food, clean water, and safe places to live, they may never become extinct.