

# Endangered Species

## Learning aims:

- Develop scientific language including terms "conservation", "endangered" and "extinct"
- Discover endangered species of the UK
- Explore conservation opportunities that can be done in school or at home

## Activity 1: Language

Discuss the following terms with your class:

- **Species** - A group of organisms that have similar characteristics and can reproduce naturally
- **Extinct** - There is no living example of a species left on Earth
- **Extinct in the wild** - There is no living example of a species living in the wild, but they are found in zoos, for example
- **Endangered** - A species is at risk of becoming extinct in the near future
- **Conservation** - The efforts that humans take to try and prevent a species becoming extinct

## Activity 2: Endangered UK Species

Challenge your class to research an endangered species that lives in the UK (this can be animal, plant or fungus!). They should find out where the species is found, why it is endangered and if/how humans are trying to help save them from extinction.

After their research, your class could make conservation posters or videos to help spread the message of conservation for their chosen animal.

## Activity 3: Conservation Projects

Look at the work that different charities and organisations are doing to help prevent extinction of more species (this can be worldwide or UK-based). This could be habitat focused (i.e. protecting an area of land which contains multiple species) or individual species based.

Identify any common examples of conservation efforts that you notice, for example - stopping habitat destruction, hunting or selling of endangered animals.

Now split your class into small groups and challenge them to research some extinct animals. Once they have chosen an animal, they should find out why it is extinct and if humans were involved. Now recreate activity 2 for this extinct species and imagine you are writing/directing an appeal to save the animal before it went extinct! (i.e. "Save the Dodo").