

Learn the Terms

Grades 5-8

- species
- population
- habitat
- ecosystem
- endangered
- threatened
- extirpated
- extinct
- biodiversity
- nonnative species
- poaching
- recovery plan
- take
- Endangered Species Act
- indigenous

Many times the discussion of a new topic is accompanied by a group of new words. This activity will help students learn new terminology.

Objectives

Students will be able to (1) define terms used in discussions about endangered, threatened, and extinct species, and (2) use the terms correctly.

Age

Grades 5-8

Time

One class period of approximately 45 minutes.

Setting

The classroom, since chalkboard is useful for displaying terminology. A pleasant outdoor setting would be nice on a dry, sunny day, provided a large writing surface (a white board or flip-chart and markers) is available.

Correlation:

C: Life Science

F: Science in Personal and Social Perspectives

Materials

- Paper
- Pencils
- Index cards (3" by 5")
- Copies of the "Word Match" exercise (see the "Evaluation" section)
- Chalkboard, white board, or flip-chart (or any writing surface that can be visible to all the students)

Materials for Props

- Markers
- Poster board
- Scissors
- Tape
- Yarn

Preparation

- Read the "Background Information" section (page 11) found toward the beginning of this guide to familiarize yourself with the terminology used in this activity.
- Step #1 under "Procedure" should be completed prior to beginning this activity. Time: 10 minutes.

Procedure

1. Make a photocopy of the terminology cards. Each card should have a term on one side and the definition on the other side. Make sure the terms and definitions match-up
2. Cut out the cards and arrange in sets of two according to the corresponding numbers at the bottom of each card (1 set consists of two related cards: 1a,1b; 2a,2b).
3. Write the terms on the board and discuss their meanings with the class.
4. Divide the class into teams.
5. Give each team a set (1a, 1b) of terminology cards.

6. Explain to the class that they will illustrate their terms for the rest of the class on a poster or by acting it out. The rest of the class will attempt to guess each term. They may use labels, such as "soil," "bat" etc. to help the class guess the term. (See examples on page 118.)

7. Allow about 15 minutes for the groups to prepare their posters. Set a time limit of 1 minute for the presentation. Groups may need help understanding terms. Use examples from the "Background Information" section to help illustrate the terms to the students.

8. Have the teams take turns acting out their words to the class. Leave the terms written on the board for the students' reference.

9. Should time permit, give each group a different pair of cards, keeping the groups intact. Have them devise ways to explain each term with different drawings.

Extension

For extra credit or advanced students, assign the terms "Endangered Species Act," "recovery plan," or "biodiversity."

Evaluation

1. The next day, have the students complete the "Word Match" on the following page in order to determine how well they have grasped the meaning of the terms.

Notes for the Teacher

A species is subdivided into populations.

Ecosystems = Interacting nonliving things & living things & energy.

Extirpated means locally extinct.

Being designated as endangered means the risk of extinction is greater than for threatened species.

Poaching applies to game and nongame species taken out of season or without permission.

Take applies only to threatened and endangered species. Poaching is included in the definition of take.

Biodiversity = the variety of life (from tiny bacteria to the largest tree) and ecosystems interacting.

Evaluation

2. Copy terms again but only on one side of the paper. Give each student a term or definition card. Make sure the card is one-sided and the answer is not on the back. Tell the students to find their match. They have 2 minutes.

Key to Word Match

- | | | | |
|----|---|-----|---|
| 1. | J | 8. | B |
| 2. | K | 9. | A |
| 3. | L | 10. | E |
| 4. | I | 11. | C |
| 5. | G | 12. | M |
| 6. | N | 13. | H |
| 7. | D | 14. | F |
-

Word Match

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Biodiversity | A. A group of genetically related organisms that reproduce with one another to produce fertile offspring. |
| 2. Nonnative species | B. The number of a particular species in a defined area. |
| 3. Endangered Species Act | C. No longer in existence. |
| 4. Poaching | D. Missing from a certain area but still present in others. |
| 5. Endangered | E. Any species that is likely to become endangered in the near future. |
| 6. Habitat | F. All the living (plants, animals) and nonliving (air, water) parts of any size area interacting and supporting each other. |
| 7. Extirpated | G. Any species in danger of extinction throughout its entire range. |
| 8. Population | H. Documents prepared for endangered and threatened species that detail specific tasks needed to recover those species. |
| 9. Species | I. Illegal hunting or taking of wild animals and plants. |
| 10. Threatened | J. The variety of life in an area, including variety of species, ecosystems, and their interactions. |
| 11. Extinct | K. A species that does not naturally occur in a particular environment but has been introduced from another region or country, most likely by humans. |
| 12. Take | L. A Federal law that protects endangered and threatened species and the ecosystems they depend on. |
| 13. Recovery plan | M. To harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect any threatened or endangered species. |
| 14. Ecosystem | N. The place where a plant or animal lives, with food, water, shelter, and cover. |

Terminology Cards

A group of genetically related organisms that reproduce with one another to produce fertile offspring. Members of a species are similar in physical structure and behavior.

1A

The number of a particular species in a given area.

1B

A place where a plant or animal lives, that has food, water, shelter, and safe hiding places.

2A

All the living parts (plants and animals) and nonliving parts (soil, water, air) in any size area interacting and linked together by energy flow.

2B

A species that is eliminated from a portion of its range but still survives in other areas.

3A

A species that is no longer in existence anywhere in the world.

3B

A species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

4A

A species that is likely to become endangered within the near future.

4B

**reverse side of terminology cards -
(copy on back before cutting out cards)**

Population

Species

Ecosystem

Habitat

Extinct

Extirpated

Threatened

Endangered

Terminology Cards

A species that naturally occurs in a particular environment.

5A

A species that does not naturally occur in a particular environment but has been introduced from another region or country, most likely by humans.

5B

Illegal hunting, trapping or digging of fish, wildlife, and plants out of season or without a permit or license.

6A

Harrass, harm, pursue, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect any threatened or endangered species.

6B

The variety of life in an area, including the variety of, species, ecosystems, and the interactions that tie them together.

7A

Protects endangered and threatened species and the ecosystems they depend on. Passed by Congress and President Nixon in 1973.

7B

A document prepared for each listed species that details the specific tasks needed to recover the species.

Bonus Card

reverse side of terminology cards -
(copy on back before cutting out cards)

**Nonnative
Species**

Indigenous

Take

Poaching

**Endangered
Species Act
(optional)**

**Biodiversity
(optional)**

**Recovery Plan
(optional bonus)**

Examples of Sample Drawings

