

Primary Worksheets: Extinct Animals



The Earth is home to many different kinds of wildlife, but some species no longer exist today. These are known as extinct animals.

Once a species becomes extinct, it is gone forever. The most common cause of extinction is a sudden change of a species' habitat.

A habitat is the environment in which an animal lives. If there is too much change, they can rarely survive. Their food supply, shelter, and other things they need to survive can be wiped out.



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The most famous species to become extinct are dinosaurs. Dinosaurs appeared on Earth 215 million years ago and were the most important land animals. 65 million years ago, the dinosaurs died out.

They became extinct because of a large asteroid, a big rock from space, that caused a lot of damage to the Earth. Temperatures dropped because of thick dust blocking the sun. Plants couldn't grow as well. The dinosaurs couldn't survive the cold and lack of food.

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The dodo is an extinct bird who could not fly. They became extinct in the late 17th century (1700s). They had strong powerful legs that allowed it to run fast. They were able to live as long as 21 years.

They became extinct because of predators. Many animals, including humans, used to hunt and eat dodo birds. They didn't have much of a defense, making them a huge target.



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Baiji River dolphins are believed to be extinct because of overfishing and pollution. They used to live in China's Yangtze River, but none has been seen since 2004.

There are many animals today that are endangered, with scientists warning that if no improvements are made to their habitat, they will soon become extinct as well. Animals like the Black Rhino and Tigers are on the list for endangered animals.



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Answer the questions.

What is an extinct animal?

Why did they become extinct?

What happened to the dinosaurs?



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Answer the questions.

Write about the Dodo bird.

What can we do to prevent animals from becoming extinct?

