

## Endangered Species

Tigers, leopards, pandas, and whales are really cool animals. What do they have in common? They are **endangered species**. A species is endangered if there are very few of that animal left in the world. The species could go away completely. When a species is gone forever, it is **extinct**.



*Tigers are an endangered species*

There are between 7 and 10 million species on our planet. That's a lot of biodiversity! Some animals go extinct on their own. For example, the dinosaurs went extinct. People think this happened when an asteroid hit Earth. Also, new species can pop up over time.

But, the problem is that people are making lots of animals go extinct today. It is not happening because of nature. We are hurting plants and animals. This happens when we cut down trees. It also happens when we hunt or fish too much. It also happens when we **pollute** Earth, or make it dirty.



*Cutting down trees is not good for animals who live in those trees*

It is hard to stop animals from being endangered. But, there are some things we can do. We can protect their homes by making national parks. We can make laws to stop too much hunting and fishing. We can use only what we need. We can also keep our Earth clean.