



ADOPT AN ENDANGERED NEIGHBOR

**Connect with
the Curriculum**
Science, Language Arts

AT A GLANCE: Research and learn about a local endangered or threatened species.

OBJECTIVES: Define endangered and threatened species and investigate local examples. Create conservation messages.

MATERIALS: Reference materials about listed species that live in your area or state, posterboard or paper, colored pencils and/or markers

TIME: Two class periods—one for research and another to make a poster or booklet

WHAT TO DO:

1. Start a discussion about endangered species. Ask students to name some they know. Steer the conversation away from animals that don't live in your area (panda, tiger, rhino, etc.) to ones that do.
2. As a class, define *endangered* and *threatened*. Check that students understand the difference. (*Endangered* is any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. *Threatened* is any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future.)
3. Invite student pairs to choose an endangered or threatened plant or animal that lives in their region or state. Lists organized by state can be linked to at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service website: www.fws.gov/Endangered/wildlife.html. (Click on “How many and which species...are listed in each State?”) Most states also list their endangered and threatened species on state department of natural resources or state fish and game agency websites.
4. Instruct students to research their chosen listed organism using provided reference materials and/or websites. Explain that their research needs to accomplish three things:
 - a. collect basic information about the organism (what it is, where it lives, what it eats, etc.)
 - b. discover what caused it to become a listed species (loss of habitat, overhunting, pollution, etc.)
 - c. determine what could help the species recover (habitat restoration, captive breeding, nesting protection, etc.)
5. Once students are armed with the facts, challenge them to create a poster or pamphlet to educate others about their chosen species. Arrange for students to display their posters or pamphlets in a hallway or the library.