



Ending Extinction

Arizona State Standards: HS.L2U3.18; HS+B.L4U1.2

Wildlife World Zoo, Aquarium and Safari Park and zoos around the world share a mission of conserving species for generations to come. In today's world many species are impacted by human activity. Some species have come to adapt to human presence, but others have diminished to the point of extinction in natural habitats. With the help of zoos, some of these species have incredible success stories. Captive breeding programs have enabled the return to natural habitats of numerous species that were once extinct, and the continued efforts of zoos has helped to boost natural populations. Today you will be introduced to some of the species that humans have successfully helped to reestablish natural populations. However, some species have not been so lucky. We hope that you will make small changes in your life to ensure fewer species face extinction in the future. Simply reducing your use of trash and plastics, reusing any items you can, and recycling can make a big difference on the biosphere.

A few examples of species that have been repopulated with the help of captive breeding programs include:

Southern White Rhinoceros

Arabian Oryx

Scimitar Horned Oryx

Black-footed Ferret

California Condor

Golden Lion Tamarin

Project:

For this assignment you will be researching one of the success stories above or finding your own success story. When researching consider the following:

What was done to encourage the species population to grow?

Does the species life history (life expectancy, time span in between births, mating rituals, etc) help or harm the species in terms of needing to quickly repopulate

What threats does the species face and are those threats increasing or decreasing? Consider both human threats and natural threats.

How have humans managed the threats facing the species in order to help the species in successfully growing as a population?

Next you will pick an endangered species that has not experienced the same success of population growth as your original species. Do research on this species considering the same questions from above. Compare your two species.

Write a 1000 word paper describing the situation facing both of your chosen species. Compare and contrast how both of your species have coped with threats, how humans have intervened if at all, and how the population is doing currently. Research and suggest ways that humans could ensure that your second species is able to survive and grow as a population.