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**WE BOTH READ®**

**LEVEL**

**2**

# Endangered Animals

Second Edition



By Elise Forier

**Take turns reading!**



Parent Reads



Child Reads







# WE BOTH READ<sup>®</sup>

## Parent's Introduction

**Whether your child is a beginning reader, a reluctant reader, or an eager reader, this book offers a fun and easy way to encourage and help your child in reading.**

Developed with reading education specialists, **We Both Read** books invite you and your child to take turns reading aloud. You read the left-hand pages of the book, and your child reads the right-hand pages—which have been written at one of six early reading levels. The result is a wonderful new reading experience and faster reading development!

You may find it helpful to read the entire book aloud yourself the first time, then invite your child to participate the second time. As you read, try to make the story come alive by reading with expression. This will help to model good fluency. It will also be helpful to stop at various points to discuss what you are reading. This will help increase your child's understanding of what is being read.

In some books, a few challenging words are introduced in the parent's text, distinguished with **bold** lettering. Pointing out and discussing these words can help to build your child's reading vocabulary. If your child is a beginning reader, it may be helpful to run a finger under the text as each of you reads. Please also notice that a "talking parent"  icon precedes the parent's text, and a "talking child"  icon precedes the child's text.



If your child struggles with a word, you can encourage “sounding it out,” but keep in mind that not all words can be sounded out. Your child might pick up clues about a word from the picture, other words in the sentence, or any rhyming patterns. If your child struggles with a word for more than five seconds, it is usually best to simply say the word.

Most of all, remember to praise your child’s efforts and keep the reading fun. At the end of the book, there is a glossary of words, as well as some questions you can discuss. Rereading this book multiple times may also be helpful for your child.

Try to keep the tips above in mind as you read together, but don’t worry about doing everything right. Simply sharing the enjoyment of reading together will increase your child’s reading skills and help to start your child off on a lifetime of reading enjoyment!

# Endangered Animals 2nd Edition

A We Both Read Book  
Level 2  
Guided Reading Level: L

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of the information in this book

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Brown bear &amp; cubs



Robin family

-  The world is full of animals. Go to a forest or a beach or even your own backyard and you will see all kinds of creatures. They are very busy finding and eating food, building homes, hiding from danger, and taking care of their young.



Honey bee



Grey long-eared bat



Ghost crab




American bison (buffalo)



Three-toed sloth



Red fox cub

 Animals live almost everywhere—in grass, in trees, underwater, even underground and in dark dens. All animals need food to eat and clean water to drink. They also need a safe place to live and sleep.

Hawksbill sea turtle



Young panda bear





For some animals, finding food, water, and a safe home is easy. This squirrel lives in a tree in a park. She drinks from a nearby creek and eats the nuts and fruit that grow in the trees. The park is big, so she has lots of space where she can search for food and play. Even if a dog runs after her, she can scamper up a tree trunk and be safe.

Eurasian red squirrel



American red squirrel

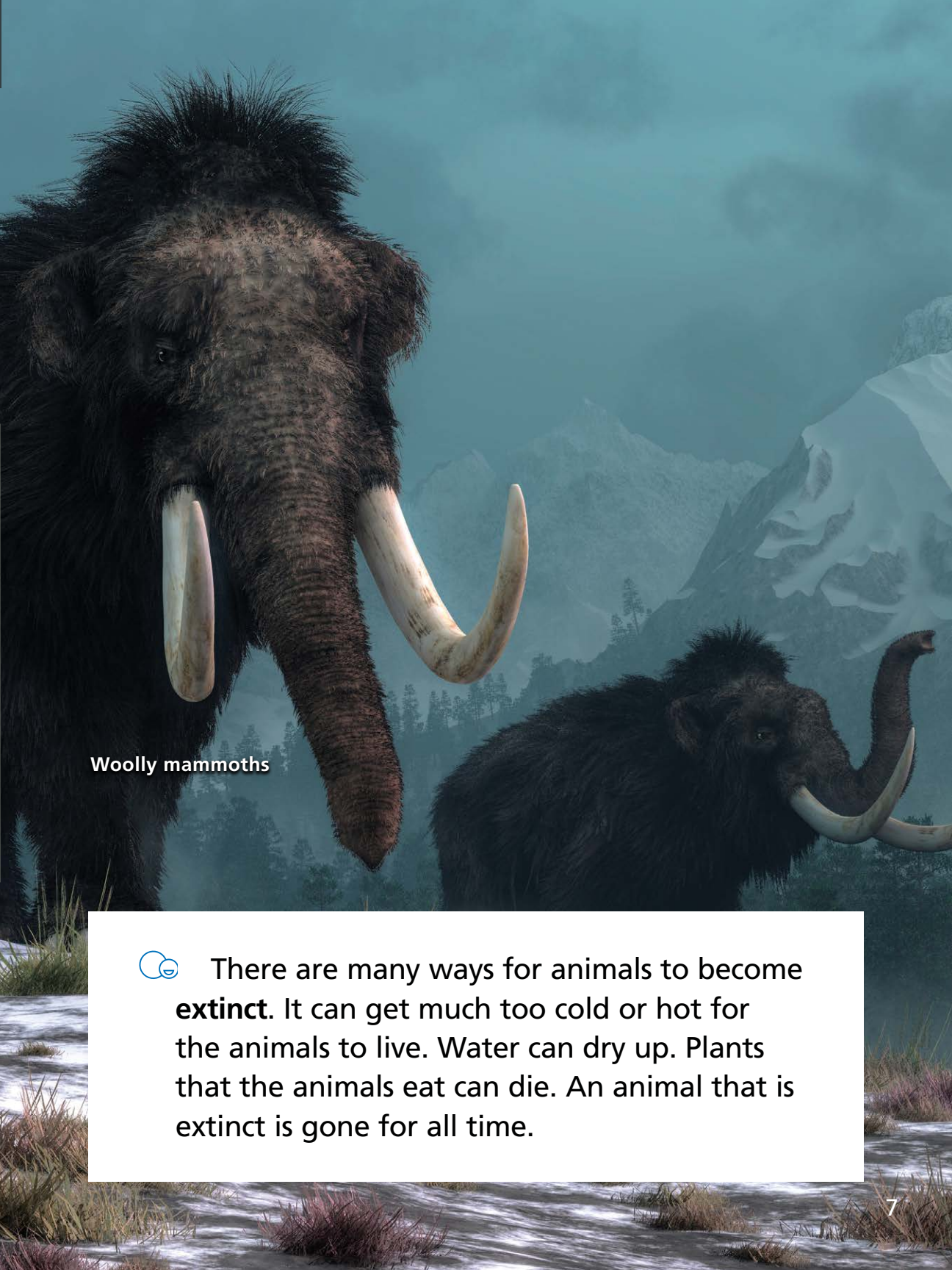


- ☁️ If all the trees in the park were cut down, the squirrel would have no home. It would be hard for her to find food. If a dog ran after her, she wouldn't have a place to hide.



- 🌐 When animals cannot find enough food or water or a safe place to live, they often die. When all of one kind of animal dies, we say the animal species is **extinct**. Long ago, the animals in these pictures lived in various parts of the world, but now they are all **extinct**.





Woolly mammoths



There are many ways for animals to become **extinct**. It can get much too cold or hot for the animals to live. Water can dry up. Plants that the animals eat can die. An animal that is extinct is gone for all time.



🌐 Sometimes animals become extinct because of what people do. Dodo (doh-doh) birds lived until a few hundred years ago but only on a faraway island near India.

Dodos were very gentle birds that could not fly. Since the dodos didn't have any natural predators on their island, the dodos were not frightened by the sailors who arrived in 1505.



Dodo bird & nest

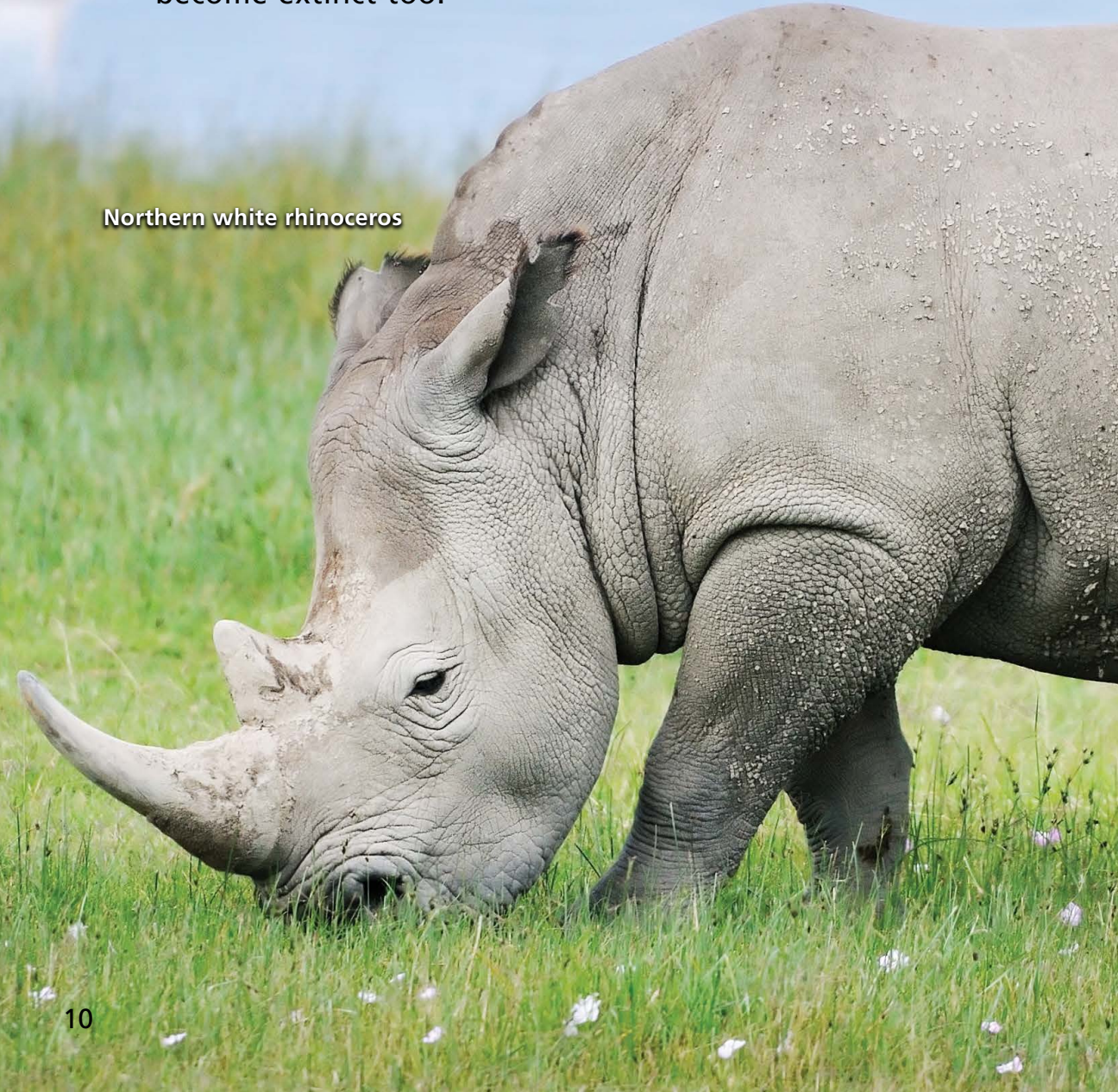


Soon more people came on boats with dogs and rats. The dodos did not run away from them. The people killed the dodos for food. The rats and dogs ate dodo eggs.

The last dodo died in 1681. Dodos are now extinct.

🌐 It has been over 300 years since the last dodo existed on Earth, and many other animals have become extinct since then. The last known western black rhino was spotted in 2006. The last-known two of the northern white rhino, both females, live in an animal conservancy in Kenya. When they die, their species will become extinct too.

Northern white rhinoceros





Whale shark



Bonobos



Puffins

- ☁ There are many other animals in danger of becoming extinct. People cutting down forests, building on open lands, and polluting the water and air are some of the reasons for this.



# Endangered Animals

**VU** vulnerable

**EN** endangered

**CE** critically endangered

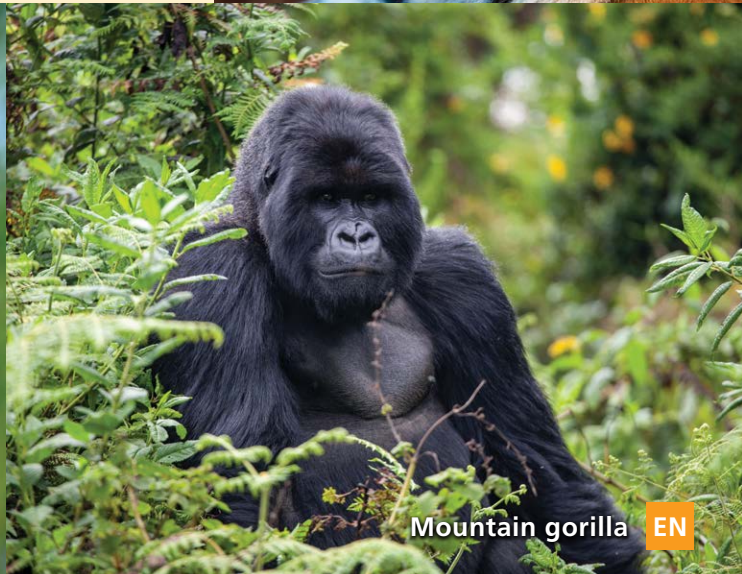
**EW** extinct in the wild



Siberian tiger **EN**



Hyacinth macaw **VU**



Mountain gorilla **EN**

📍 Animal species in danger of becoming extinct fall into four main categories: (1) vulnerable – may go extinct in the next 100 years; (2) **endangered** – could go extinct within 20 years; (3) critically **endangered** – having a high likelihood of going extinct within 10 years; and (4) extinct in the wild – the only surviving animals are in zoos, aquariums, or animal preserves.



Manatee **VU**




Hawksbill sea turtle **CE**

☹️ It is sad that some animals are **endangered**, but at least there is hope. If we work together to make sure endangered animals can have food, clean water, and safe places to live, they may never become extinct.



Giant panda **VU**

 The place where an animal lives is called its **habitat**. Many animals live in unique **habitats**, where they eat certain foods and create special homes.

Giant pandas live in bamboo forests in China, and bamboo is their only source of food. Sadly, humans are causing these forests to disappear. Golden lion tamarins live across the world from pandas in the South American rain forest. Like pandas, tamarins are losing their forest **habitat** and have become endangered.



Golden lion tamarin **EN**




☁ There are many other wild animals that also need the rain forest trees for their **habitat**. If all the rain forests are cut down, many of these animals will become extinct.





**Climate change** is causing many habitats to change, making them uninhabitable for **native** animals. Polar bears walk on the ice to hunt for food, but **climate change** has made a lot of the ice melt. Unable to find enough food, polar bears do not get fat enough before they hibernate and some of them die.

Polar bears 





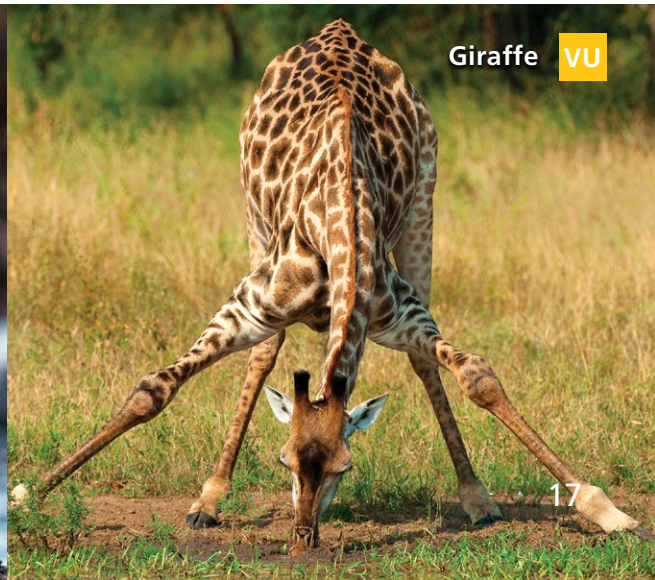
African elephants **VU**



In some places, **climate change** has made it too hot for **native** plants to grow. Water holes have dried up. With not enough food to eat or water to drink, native animals are not able to survive.



Galapagos penguin **EN**



Giraffe **VU**



Sea otter **EN**

👤 Some animals make their home in places that are also attractive to humans, especially near the ocean. Close to half of all the people in the world live within 100 miles of a sandy beach.


Many marine animals, including sea turtles, lay their eggs on beaches. It is getting more and more difficult for them to find safe nesting areas away from human dangers.



This green sea turtle hatchling has just emerged from its egg and is trying to get to the ocean. **EN**

# How can you help?

- Some habitats are destroyed so the trees and land can be used to make more and more things for people. Try your best to use less. Buy fewer clothes, and keep them until they wear out. Share games and toys with friends. Reuse school supplies each year instead of always buying new supplies.

Orangutan 



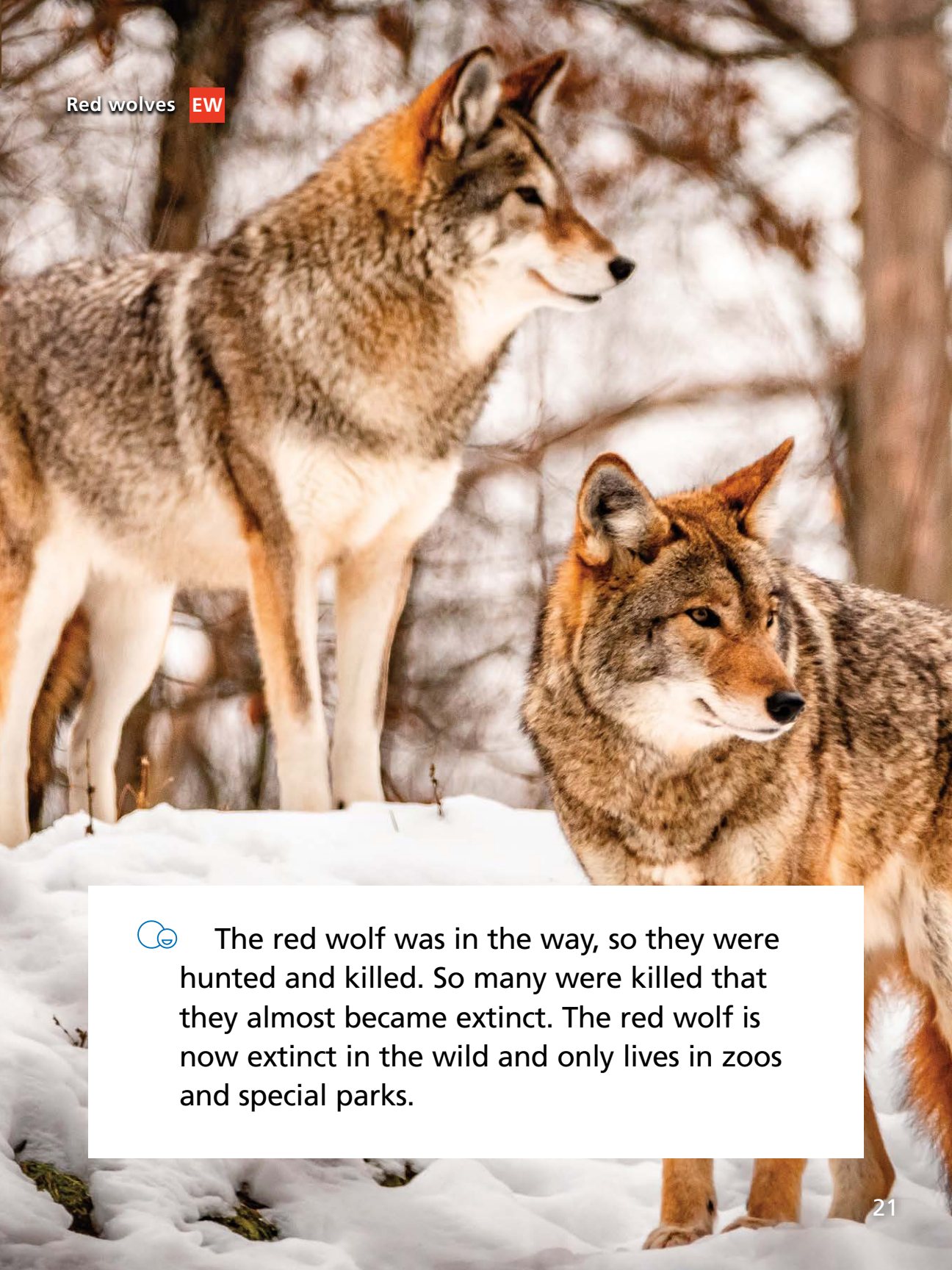


Bison

⊗ While not all hunting and fishing will cause animals to become extinct, or even endangered, it can become a problem when animals are overhunted or overfished.

The red wolf is one species that used to live in abundance in the western United States. As people moved west, they wanted to build farms, roads, and houses.

Cheetahs **VU**Bluefin tuna **EN**



The red wolf was in the way, so they were hunted and killed. So many were killed that they almost became extinct. The red wolf is now extinct in the wild and only lives in zoos and special parks.



Several different kinds of tigers used to live all over Asia. Today, three species of tigers are extinct: Caspian, Bali, and Javan tigers. Many others are endangered.

Tigers are hunted for their beautiful fur, which is used to make rugs and coats. The endangered red panda of China is also hunted for its beautiful, thick fur.



Siberian tigers **EN**



- 🗨️ The fur of the **red panda** is used to make hats and capes. The tail is sometimes used as a feather duster. This shy animal is an easy target. It has no way to defend itself against humans.



Black rhinoceros **CE**

Some animals are kept on protected land meant to keep them safe. These include many animals native to Africa, such as rhinos, elephants, giraffes, and chimpanzees. People who trap, hunt, or fish on protected lands are called **poachers**, and **poaching** animals is against the law.



Chimpanzee **EN**



Asian elephants **EN**

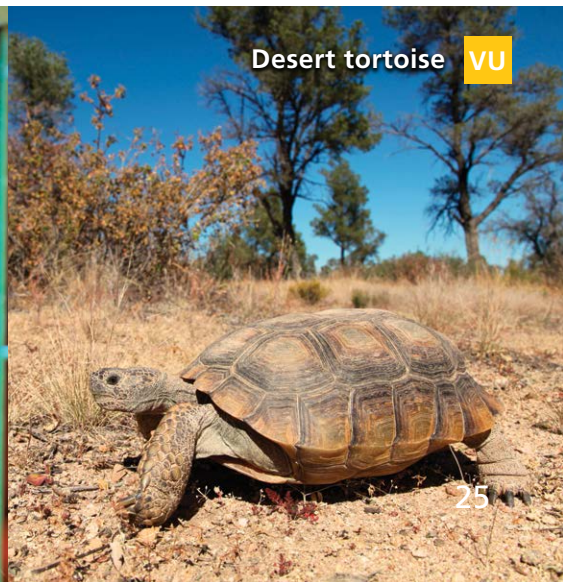


Vervet monkey

- ☹️ Going on protected land to kill or trap animals is a big problem. Some **poachers** trap frogs, birds, lizards, snakes, big cats, and even alligators and sell them as pets.



Lion VU



Desert tortoise VU



African pangolin **VU**



Rolled-up pangolin

☹️ The pangolin is a strange prehistoric-looking animal that resembles an armadillo or anteater but is more closely related to cats. Killed for its meat and scales, the pangolin is the most-poached animal in the world. Some people think that pills made from the pangolin scales will help them stay young, even though scientists say the pills do not work.

# How can you help?

Ring-tailed lemur EN



- ☺ Many parks, zoos, and animal preserves help to protect endangered animals. When you visit these places, you are helping to support the animals, and you can learn more about what is being done to make sure they do not become extinct.





Whooping crane **EN**

☉ Chemical, water, and plastic **pollution** have a huge impact on the animals of the world. Birds and bats are especially impacted by chemical **pollution** in the form of pesticides. The pesticides are used to kill bugs, rats, and mice.

The birds and bats then eat these animals and become poisoned themselves. Some pesticides have been banned, but the problem continues.


Great grey owl




Olive-backed sunbird & nest





West Indian manatee 

-  This funny-looking animal is called a manatee. Some manatees live in the sea and the rivers of Florida. They are gentle and shy and eat sea grass. Like many sea animals, manatees may be dying out because of water **pollution** and collisions with speeding boats.



West Indian manatee


Whale shark **EN**




Atlantic grey seal



🌐 **Plastic** pollution is having a huge impact on the oceans of our world. Fish, sea turtles, birds, and marine mammals mistake **plastic** for food. Unable to digest the **plastic**, their **stomachs** fill and they die of starvation. Animals also get tangled up in plastic nets, bags, or the rings used on six-packs of soda.

A large sperm whale is shown swimming underwater in clear blue water. The whale is dark grey with a lighter, mottled pattern on its head and back. It is moving towards the right side of the frame. The water is bright blue, and the surface is visible at the top.

 Whales are the biggest animals on Earth. But that does not save them from the harm of **plastic** pollution. One sperm whale had over 13 pounds of plastic in its **stomach**. That included bags, bottles, flip-flops, and over 100 drinking cups.

Sperm whale 

# How can you help?



Sea turtle eating plastic bag

White stork looking for food in garbage

- 🌍 The less we throw away, the less we pollute. Use reusables instead of disposables when you can. Try to “just say no” to plastic straws, plastic bags, and plastic utensils. When you must use disposables, be sure they find their way into a garbage can or recycling bin.



Beach clean-up

- 👤 If you're visiting a park or beach, clean up after yourself. You can even join a beach cleanup event. During the event you can help remove trash that has been left behind or that has washed up on the shore. The animals will thank you!

Humpback whales **EN**

🌐 It's not all bad news for the vulnerable animals of our world. People all around the globe are working hard to save them from **extinction**. There have been many success stories already! The Endangered **Species** Act alone has helped save the bald eagle, California condor, manatee, American alligator, grizzly bear, and humpback whales.

California condor **CE**

Bald eagle





American alligator

- 🕒 The American alligator was almost hunted to **extinction**. The skin of the alligator was used for shoes and jackets. Some people like to eat alligator meat. The Endangered **Species Act** limited hunting. Now alligators are no longer endangered.







Steller sea lions

- 🌐 Steller sea lions were only recently taken off the endangered species list. These large sea mammals suffered the effects of trash in the ocean. They also were being hunted by fishermen who thought they were eating all the fish. Thanks to conservation efforts, their numbers are up once more.

## Grizzly Bears



Grizzly bears are at the top of the food chain. They are needed to keep nature in balance. Today most grizzly bears live in Alaska. They were once endangered, but now they are doing well.




Siberian tiger EN

🌐 Not so long ago, there were only about 40 Siberian tigers left in Russia. Although they still could be found in zoos, they were well on their way to being extinct in the wild. Conservation efforts have brought their numbers up to over 500 in the wild, and the population is growing.





Mountain gorillas **EN**

-  The mountain gorilla is still endangered, but the population is slowly growing too. Special parks give them room to roam and help keep them safe from hunters.

# How can you help?



Orangutan **CE**



The most important thing you can do is to stay educated about the many dangers that animals face. Using modern technology, you can keep up on all the latest threats, along with ideas for how to help. Here are just a few sites:

**[www.kids.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.kids.nationalgeographic.com)** – search “endangered”

**[www.worldwildlife.org](http://www.worldwildlife.org)**

**[www.dkfindout.com](http://www.dkfindout.com)**



☺ The world is a home to people, plants, and animals. We share the water, land, and air. If you remember that we are all connected, then you can help save endangered animals. You can make a difference. You can help keep the world safe for endangered animals everywhere.

# GLOSSARY



## **extinct**

no longer existing



## **animal preserve**

natural areas that are protected to give wildlife a better chance of survival in a safe habitat



## **climate change**

significant long-term changes in normal and average weather patterns



## **poaching**

capturing or killing an animal illegally on protected land



## **pollution**

a wide range of things people do that have a harmful or poisonous effect on the land, water, or air



## **conservation**

the protection of animals, plants, and natural resources

# CATEGORIES OF ENDANGERED ANIMALS

**VU**

## **vulnerable**

a species that has at least a 10 percent chance of going extinct within 100 years

**EN**

## **endangered**

a species that has at least a 20 percent chance of going extinct within 20 years or five generations

**CE**

## **critically endangered**

a species that has at least a 50 percent chance of going extinct within 10 years or three generations

**EW**

## **extinct in the wild**

the only surviving animals of the species are in zoos, aquariums, or animal preserves

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**1**

What are some of the ways you can help endangered animals?

**2**

What are some differences between animals living in the wild and animals living in the zoo?

**3**

Do you think animals can tell when humans are trying to help them? What makes you think that?

**4**

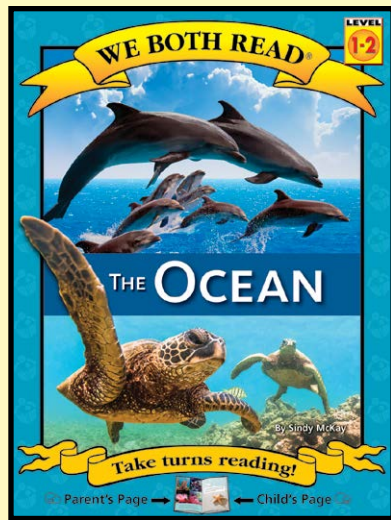
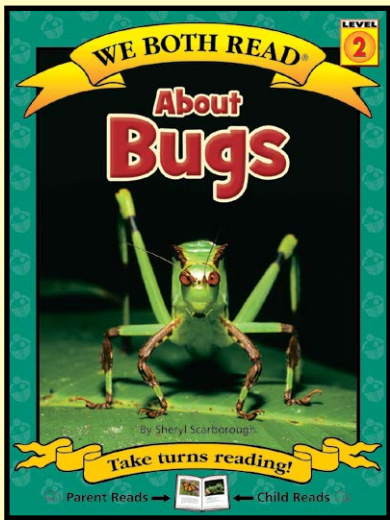
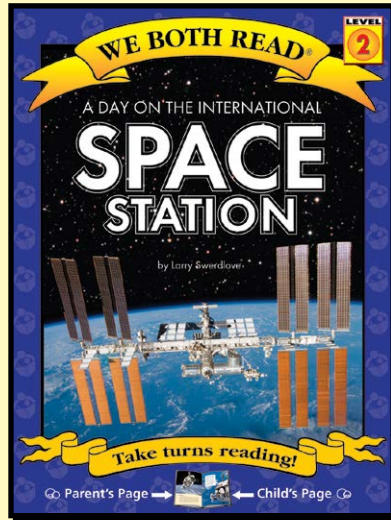
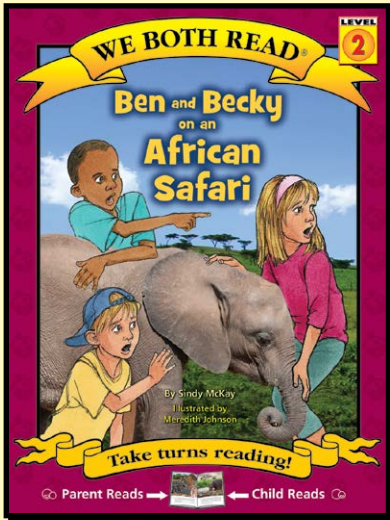
Why do you think some animals were hunted to extinction?

**5**

What animals live around your home or school? Do you think any of them are currently endangered? How could you find out?



If you liked *Endangered Animals*, here are some other We Both Read® books you are sure to enjoy!



You can see all the We Both Read books that are available at [WeBothRead.com](http://WeBothRead.com).