

Habitats and adaptations

Subject	- Science
Also links to	- Geography
Key Stage	- 3&4

Post activity - Endangered Animals and extinction

Objectives:

- To gain an understanding of endangered animals.

Activity description:

Throughout time certain species die out and become extinct.

It is our job as humans to protect endangered animals in order for them to avoid extinction.

Below is a list of the animals we have at the Blue Planet Aquarium that are vulnerable or endangered in the wild.

- Sand Tiger Sharks
- Diamond Back Sturgeon
- Dumerills Boa
- Blue Dart Frog
- Queen Trigger Fish
- Rainbow Parrot Fish
- Panther Grouper

Pick an animal that you will see on your visit to Blue Planet Aquarium from the list and investigate why this animal is in danger of extinction. Ask yourselves questions about the vulnerability of the animal you choose.

What type of habitat does it live in?

Has the habitat changed in any way?

Will global warming affect the habitat?

Have any habitat changes been caused by humans?

Could the animal adapt to changes in habitat?

What do you believe to be the future of this animal?

What can humans do to help protect this animal?

Scroll down to the next page for an example of an activity.



Post Activity - Endangered Animal and Extinction cont/d

Activity Example

Animal

Queen Trigger Fish

What type of habitat does it live in?

It is found in Coral Reefs and Grass Beds of the South Atlantic.

Has the habitat changed in any way?

Yes, coral reefs have been destroyed by destructive fishing practices (cyanide and dynamite), over fishing, careless tourism, pollution, sedimentation and coral mining for building work.

Will global warming affect the habitat?

Yes, increased CO₂ levels have meant rapid growth in Grass beds which are more dominant than corals. Corals cannot survive if the water temperature is too high.

Have any habitat changes been caused by humans?

Yes, CO₂ is one of the greenhouse gasses produced in abundance by human industrial and domestic waste. I.e. driving cars on short or unnecessary journeys.

Could the animal adapt to changes in habitat?

The fish could adapt temporarily but not long term as they need a varied diet to successfully reproduce. The Queen Trigger fish is one of the more adaptable endangered animals we have at Blue Planet Aquarium.

What do you believe to be the future of this animal?

If the vulnerability of this animal is not addressed it has the potential to slowly become extinct.

What can humans do to help protect this animal?

There are organisations and councils set up to manage fishing and coral harvests but we can do many things on our own to help slow global warming and aid marine conservation.

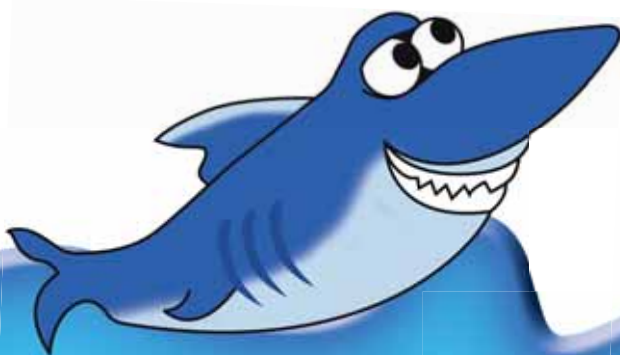
Scroll down to the next page for a list of things you can do to help the environment.



Post Activity - Endangered Animal and Extinction cont/d

Below is a list of things you can do to help.

- Turn off lights when you are not using them.
- Turn off televisions and CD players when not in use.
- Turn off the tap when you are brushing your teeth.
- Recycle as much as you can.
- Find out from your local council how many things you can recycle (you may be surprised).
- Send E greetings cards instead of card cards (they are much cheaper).
- Reduce the methane at landfill sites by producing less litter (Re-use plastic drinks bottles/ don't buy paper plates and other disposables).
- Use rechargeable batteries.
- Re-use your carrier bags (some supermarkets offer "green incentives" now).
- Drink tap water. Bottled water costs a lot of money to transport and is usually in plastic bottles.
- Try to buy something organic each week. Organic products are usually slightly more expensive so shop around.
- Try to attract birds to your garden they are an excellent natural pest killer.
- Collect rainwater to water your plants.



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