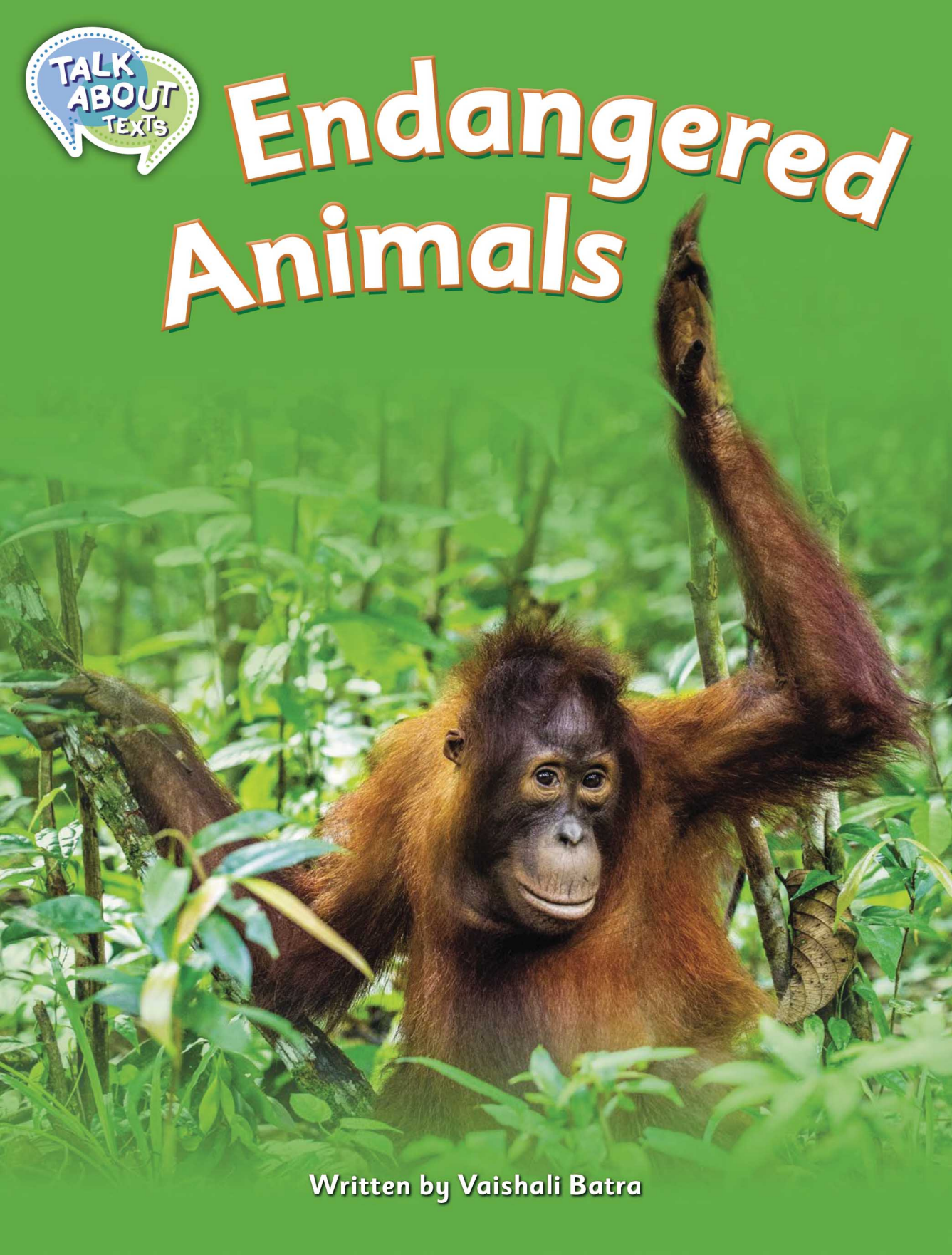
TALK ABOUT TEXTS

# Endangered Animals



Written by Vaishali Batra

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For Review Only

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macmillan education

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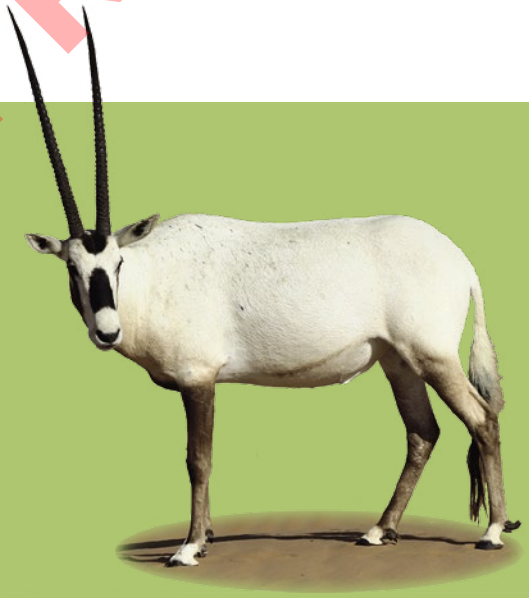
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# Animals in Danger

Around the world, many animal **species** are in danger of dying out. Their numbers are falling. They may soon vanish, or become extinct. A species that is in danger of becoming extinct is called endangered.

All species in nature are linked together. They depend on one another. When an animal becomes endangered, this can affect other animals. The animals or insects that eat the endangered species will not have enough food. Their numbers could go down. The animals or plants that the endangered species eats will have fewer **predators**. Their numbers could go up.

It is important to protect endangered species. This keeps nature in balance.



The kakapo, found in New Zealand, is endangered because there are fewer than 160 of these birds left on Earth today.

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# How Animals Become Endangered

Animals become endangered when the place where they live, their **habitat**, is changed or destroyed. People take land away from animals. They do this to make space for the growing number of humans. They turn forests and grasslands into farms and cities. So, animals do not have enough space to live or enough food to eat.

Many species become endangered because people hunt them to eat or for sport. Some species become endangered because of diseases.

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Green turtles are endangered because they become caught in fishing nets.

# The Red List

The Red List is a record of species in danger. It is written by experts at the International Union for Conservation of Nature, or IUCN. It shows the level of danger for plants and animals.

| Status | Level of danger | Examples of animals |
|---|---|---|
| Extinct | Species has died out completely | Dodo, Tasmanian tiger |
| Extinct in the wild | Species has died out in the wild, but some animals live in zoos and reserves | Hawaiian crow, Guam kingfisher |
| Critically endangered | Species is in extreme danger of dying out | Sumatran elephant, Asiatic cheetah |
| Endangered | Species is in serious danger of dying out | Tasmanian devil, red panda |
| Vulnerable | Species is in some danger of dying out | Hippopotamus, polar bear |
| Near threatened | Species could be in danger of dying out soon | Emperor penguin, maned wolf |
| Least concern | Species is in no danger of dying out at present | Bald eagle, humpback whale |

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# Black Rhinos

Black rhinos *(ri-noes)* live in grasslands in Africa. In the past, people hunted them for their horns. About 95 per cent of the species was wiped out. The horns are used for medicines in some countries. They are also carved into weapons.

Today, there are only about 5000 black rhinos left. One way people help them is by creating reserves. They are safe from being hunted on the reserves.



These wildlife rangers are watching over endangered black rhinos in a reserve in Zimbabwe, Africa.

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## Tracking Rhinos

**Satellite** technology helps protect rhinos from illegal hunting, or **poaching.** Rhinos have a tag attached to their horns. The tag sends signals up to a satellite. Rangers are people who work on the reserves. Tagging rhinos helps the rangers keep track of them.



The tag sets off an alarm if a rhino moves into an unsafe area.

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## Moving home

Black rhinos on reserves live in small, separate groups. Rangers move them to new areas to have babies, or **breed**. This helps their numbers grow.




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