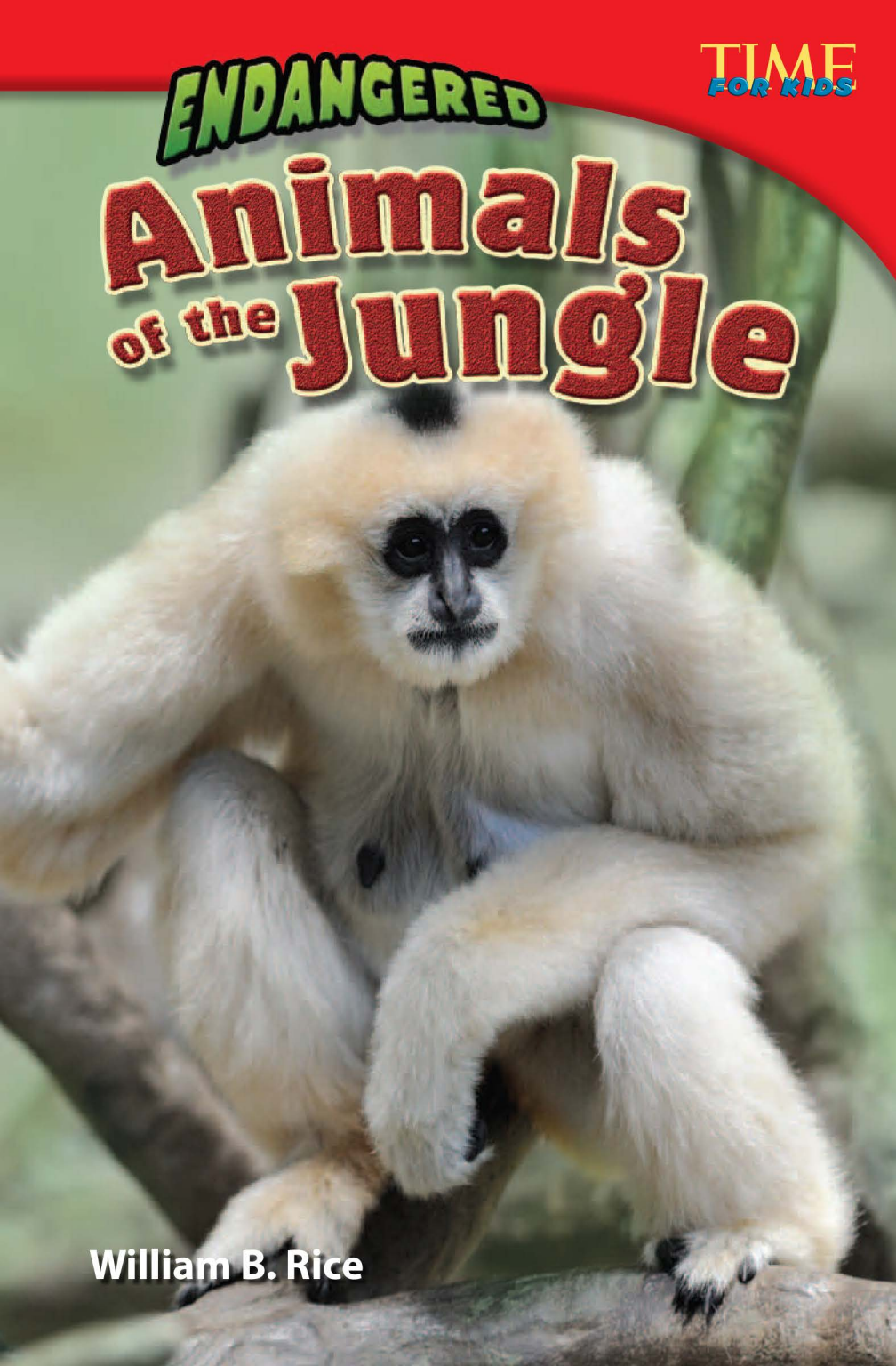
TIME FOR KIDS

ENDANGERED Animals of the Jungle



William B. Rice

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Lifeless 4

Endangered 6

Dangerous Factors 12

African Jungles 16

Asian Jungles 28

South American Jungles 44

North American Jungles 52

Ways to Help 54

Glossary 58

Index 60

Bibliography 62

More to Explore 63

About the Author 64

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LIFELESS

The jungle is alive. Alive with plants. Alive with animals. Alive with sound, color, motion, and fragrance. It pulses and breathes as though the jungle itself were a single living thing.

More **species** than can be imagined live in the thick foliage of the world's jungles. But year by year—even day by day—more and more species simply cease to exist. Left unprotected, what was once filled with life becomes silent, gray, and still.

Lifeless. **Extinct.**



red-eyed tree frog

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black-and-white lemur

THINK LINK

- What animals live in the world's jungles?
- In what ways are they in danger?
- How can we protect them?

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toucan

ENDANGERED

Over time, Earth changes. In some areas, it gets warmer and wetter. In others, it may get drier or colder. It is natural that some species are unable to handle these changes. They cannot **thrive** and prosper. At some point, they cease to be. But more and more, the effects of human actions weaken otherwise healthy species. They become **endangered**, or in danger of dying off. Sometimes, they become extinct, or wiped from the planet.

Some people think it's merely sad when a species becomes endangered and extinct. They're sorry that humans will no longer see that species. But the truth is, "sad" is the least of the problem. All species depend on one another. The loss of a single species can have tragic results for all.

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kapok flower



golden-lion tamarin

Hard to Imagine

It is estimated that more than 1,700,000 kinds of **organisms** currently exist on Earth. They include more than:

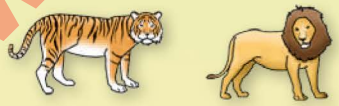
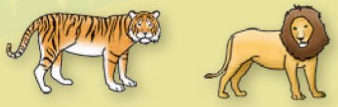
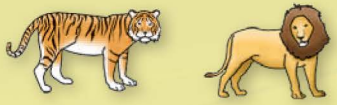
- 300,000 plant species
- 60,000 animal species (including humans)
- 1,000,000 species of insects, bugs, and similar ocean organisms
- 50,000 species of **fungi**, lichens, and similar organisms

tarantula

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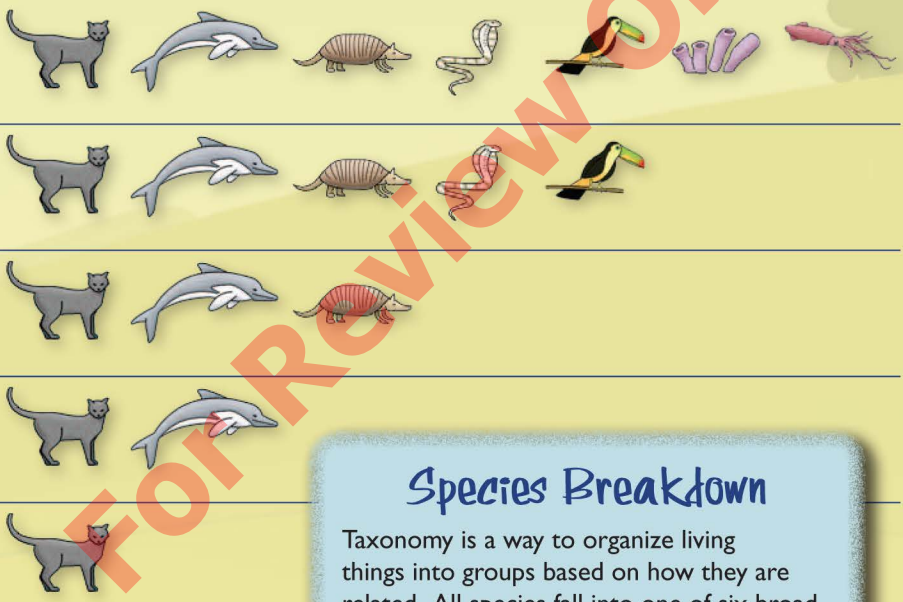
SPECIES

A species is a type of life form. Panthers, toucans, and kapok trees are all types of species. Throughout history, there have been millions of species on Earth. Life has existed for many hundreds of millions of years. Different species prosper at different times in different ways. And sometimes, they naturally fade away.

Kingdom	The largest group of living things can be classified into kingdom *Animalia*.	
Phylum	Only some of these animals can be classified as *Chordata*. They have backbones.	
Class	Mammals belong to the class *Mammalia*. Most mammals have hair and nourish their young with milk.	
Order	**Taxonomy** divides each group into smaller groups. Those animals in order *Carnivora* eat only meat.	
Family	Every living thing goes into a category at each level. The family *Felidae* is made up of different types of cats.	
Genus	The genus name is the first word in the scientific name of a creature.	
Species	This chart shows that a tiger falls in *Animalia*, *Chordata*, *Mammalia*, *Carnivora*, *Felidae*, *Panthera*, and *Panthera Tigris*.	

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The planet is rich with many forms of life. Plants, animals, insects, and fungi all coexist. They live within a system in which all species depend on one another. Humans, too, depend on other forms of life. No species stands on its own. And what happens to one species affects many others.



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Species Breakdown

Taxonomy is a way to organize living things into groups based on how they are related. All species fall into one of six broad kingdoms. The species name is the most specific way to describe a plant or animal. A species is a group of living things made up of individuals that can produce **fertile** offspring. Scientists usually identify animals by their genus and species name, as in *Panthera tigris*.