Survival

Endangered (en dān´ jerd) plants or animals in danger of becoming extinct

Litter (lit´ ər) trash or garbage that is left scattered on the ground or in the water

Pollution (pə lü´ shən) harmful materials that make water, soil, or air dirty

Using SCIENCE Words

Which vocabulary word best fits in the sentence below?

1. Today African elephants are _____, but in the future, they may become extinct.
    A. endangered
    B. pollution
    C. litter

1 Thousands of kinds of living organisms are in danger of dying out completely. Plants and animals that are in danger of becoming extinct are **endangered.**

2 Dinosaurs were once endangered. They could not survive changes to their environment. They became extinct.

3 Today many living organisms are endangered. The long list of endangered organisms includes plants such as the western lily and the pitcher plant. Animals like the rhinoceros and the African elephant are on the list too.

4 Some plants and animals have become extinct or endangered because of natural causes. Habitats change over time.

5 But some plants and animals are disappearing because of humans. We change the places in which they live. We drain swamps and build houses in fields. We cut down forests for the wood. This destroys the habitats of all the living organisms in the area.

6 Humans cause pollution. **Pollution** is harmful materials that make water, soil, or air dirty. Wastewater from factories makes lakes and rivers dirty. Oil spills pollute the oceans. Smoke from cars and factories causes smog, or dirty air. None of this is good for plants and animals.

7 Humans have also hunted and killed many kinds of animals such as whales and tigers. Now there aren't many of these animals left. They are endangered.

8 The litter that humans spread around is another problem. **Litter** is trash or garbage that is left scattered on the ground and in the water. It can spoil the places where plants and animals live.

9 All these human actions cause problems for other living organisms. These actions change the places in which they live. These things make it hard for plants and animals to live and grow.

10 Some humans are working to save endangered living organisms. A law has been passed to help protect them. Laws have cut down on pollution. But there is still much more we can do.

11 We can all help by conserving, or saving, energy. This will cut down on pollution. It will help other living organisms. It will be good for us too. We can clean up litter when we see it. We can make responsible choices about how to use Earth's resources.

Write *T* if the statement is true, based on the reading. Write *F* if the statement is false.

2. All plants and animals are endangered.
3. There are a few plants and animals that are endangered.
4. Humans are responsible for some plants and animals becoming endangered.
5. Pollution does not improve air, soil, and water.
6. Litter is caused by plants.

A. The plant grew in the garden. The word *grew* is a verb. It tells what the plant did. Words that tell what someone or something does are verbs. Look at the group of words below. Then read the sentences. Write the verb that best completes each sentence.

cook	**said**	**clean**
eat	**listened**	**like**
wish	**swim**	**teach**

7. My mom said she would _____ me to ride a bike.
8. Don't forget to _____ your room.
9. Juan helped his father _____ dinner.
10. Alisha wants to _____ in the lake today.
11. I _____ the taste of apple pie.

B. One word in each row does not belong with the others. For example: *apples*, *oranges*, *carrots*. Apples and oranges are fruits. Carrots are roots. *Carrots* is the word that does not belong. Write the word that does not belong in each row.

12. beagle	hound	parrot
13. daffodil	maple	spruce
14. monkey	chimpanzee	cheetah
15. lead	soil	copper
16. carrots	bananas	beets

Read the chart. Answer the questions.

Some of the Most Endangered Animals

Animal	Animal Group	Location
Giant Panda	Mammal	China
Mountain Gorilla	Mammal	Africa
Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle	Reptile	Mexico
Whooping Crane	Bird	Texas Coast
Queen Alexandra's Birdwing Butterfly	Insect	New Guinea
Snow Leopard	Mammal	Central Asia
Asian Elephant	Mammal	Southeast Asia
Rhinoceros	Mammal	Africa

17. Which endangered animal is located on the Texas coast?
    A. Giant Panda
    B. Whooping Crane
    C. Mountain Gorilla
    D. Snow Leopard

18. How many animals in the chart are mammals?
    A. 2
    B. 3
    C. 4
    D. 5

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Using SCIENCE Words

1. A

Comprehension

2. F
3. F
4. T
5. T
6. F

Learn About Words

A. 7. teach
   8. clean
   9. cook
   10. swim
   11. like
B. 12. parrot
   13. daffodil
   14. cheetah
   15. soil
   16. bananas

Think About It

17. B
18. D

Writing About Science

Brainstorm ideas for ways to protect endangered plants and animals. Write your ideas in the form of a list.