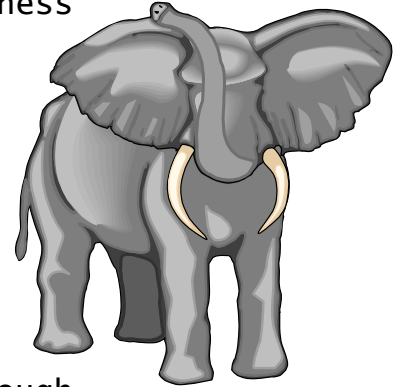


All About Mammals

At one time, the earth contained a vast wilderness untouched by humans. However, the human population has grown rapidly and continues to grow at a rapid rate. Natural habitats are disappearing as a result the earth's biodiversity is declining.



- ❖ Agriculture has been the main driving force behind land loss. Habitat alteration resulting from agricultural practices affects many species, particularly predators at the top of the food chain. These carnivores depend on extensive territories in order to find enough food to survive.
- ❖ Pollution occurs when chemicals or other agents disrupt natural ecosystems. Some of the substances are passed on when predators eat their prey, so they accumulate in species at the top of the food chains, such as whales, polar bears, and birds of prey.
- ❖ Over hunting and over fishing has resulted in the extinction of some species. For instance, the North American passenger pigeon, once the most abundant bird in the world became extinct in 1914.

1. Which of these mammals is endangered?
 - a. Raccoon
 - b. Florida panther
 - c. Bison
2. Which of these mammals was once seriously endangered but has made a comeback?
 - a. Raccoon
 - b. Florida panther
 - c. Bison
3. True or False: It's legal to import the spotted coat of the jaguar, a big cat that lives in South America, into the United States.
4. Which of these endangered mammals is being reintroduced into the wild?
 - a. Humpback whale
 - b. Golden lion tamarin
 - c. Black bear
5. What part of the black rhinoceros is in great demand in some countries?
 - a. Its horn
 - b. Its teeth
 - c. Its skin

6. Which of these mammals is disappearing from Yellowstone National Park?
 - a. Black bear
 - b. Bison
 - c. Grizzly bear
7. Which of these mammals relies on bamboo?
 - a. African elephant
 - b. Mountain gorilla
 - c. Panda
8. Which of these mammals did the dingo probably wipe out (by competing for food and other resources) on the Australian mainland?
 - a. Tasmanian devil
 - b. Red kangaroo
 - c. Domestic sheep
9. True or False: Poaching is no longer a threat to mountain gorillas.
10. Which of the following has not been a big threat to orangutans?
 - a. Destruction of its rain forest habitat
 - b. Oil spills
 - c. Over-collecting for zoos
11. Which of these problems affects sea otter populations?
 - a. Oil spills
 - b. Selling of illegal pets
 - c. Hunting too many otters for their meat
12. Which of the following do poachers kill elephants for?
 - a. Their skin
 - b. Their tusks
 - c. Their ears
13. Which of these mammals had been considered by many to be extinct until it was rediscovered in 1981 in the western United States?
 - a. Black-footed ferret
 - b. Black-tailed jackrabbit
 - c. Pronghorn antelope
14. Which of these mammals is sheared for its fine wool?
 - a. Bighorn sheep
 - b. Vicuna
 - c. Dall's sheep

15. Which of these problems is the most serious threat to mammals today?
- a. Over hunting
 - b. Pollution
 - c. Loss of habitat



Answers: 1.b; 2.c; 3.False; 4.b; 5.a; 6.c; 7.c; 8.a; 9.False; 10.b; 11.a;
12.b; 13.a; 14.b; 15.c