

# Endangered Animals

## What causes animals to become endangered?

### Habitat

People destroy natural habitats when they clear land for buildings, roads or farms. The trees, rocks or ground that gave animals shelter and protection from predators disappear. The other plants or animals that are part of their diet may also decrease as a result of clearing. The animals must move to another similar habitat or it becomes very difficult for them to survive.

### Hunting

Animals are hunted because they are a source of food but they also provide fur, skins, teeth and bones. Some parts of animals are used for cosmetics or traditional medicines. Often, there are rules about fishing, such as the time of year you can fish, and the size and amount of fish you can catch. Why do you think these laws were made?



### Introduced animals

Introduced animals are animals that are not native to a habitat. These animals often thrive in their new location and then cause problems for the native animals. Introduced animals can prey on the native animals and take over their shelters and sources of food. Introduced animals like the cane toad can even be poisonous to other animals.



### Pollution

Humans pollute the water, air and soil that animals rely on. Chemicals from factories and farms can make animals very sick. Rubbish like plastic in the oceans can be eaten by sea creatures that are unable to digest it.



**Ask Yourself...**

**How can you help endangered animals?**

### Did You Know?

Australian Aboriginals carefully watch the lifecycles of the animals they hunt. They know not to take too much from habitats. By only hunting the animals they need for food, and making sure that there are enough animals left to regenerate the population, they take care of the environment.

