

Wild and Rare

Grades 4 – 5

Educational Program Guide

PASS

Grade 4 Science Process 1.2, 3.1, 4.3, 5.1, 5.3, 5.4 | Life Science 3.1, 3.2

Grade 5 Science Process 1.2, 2.1, 3.1, 4.3, 5.3, 5.4 | Life Science 2.1, 2.2

OAS

5-PS1-3 | Science Practices 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8

Program Overview

Everyone hears about endangered species, but of the many plants and animals around us, which ones are endangered? Which ones are threatened? Which ones are surviving? Students will learn what makes a species vulnerable to extinction, then use museum specimens and hands-on materials to gather information and predict the futures of several species.

Objectives

After participating in this program, students will be able to:

- Be able to identify several species of animals that are threatened or endangered;
- Understand the main reasons plants and animals become endangered;
- Understand what can be done to help protect species and ensure their long-term survival.

Background

An endangered species is a group of organisms which is facing a high risk of becoming extinct due to environmental pressures, overhunting, or predation. In many areas of the world, state and national laws offer some protection to endangered species. However, only a few of the many species at risk actually obtain legal protection. Many more species become extinct, or will become extinct, without gaining public notice or protection.

At the Museum

Hall of Ancient Life

Discover some of Oklahoma's extinct animals like Saurophaganax and Smilodon.

Hall of Natural Wonders

Learn about some of Oklahoma's endangered species such as the Ozark Big-eared Bat, Burying Beetle and the Oklahoma Cave Crayfish.

Vocabulary

Conservation	the act of protecting a species and its environment or habitat
Endangered	a species that is vulnerable to extinction
Exploitation	using plants or animals for profit or commercial gain
Extinct	a species that has no more living members
Habitat	the physical place where an animal lives; it provides all of the resources needed for life
Predation	a natural interaction where predators feed on prey
Species	a group of closely related organisms, which are capable of producing fertile offspring
Threatened	a species that is vulnerable to endangerment