



# Xavier's Daily

## ➔ Challenge yourself!

*It belongs to you, but other people use it more than you do. What is it?*

Answer - Your name

## ➔ Spectrum's Corner

### Thought of the Day

*The same boiling water that softens the potato hardens the egg. It's what you're made of. Not the circumstances.*

### Word of the Day

*Didactic:- instructive with a moral intent*

*Example:- It is a didactic novel that set out to expose social justice.*



# ENDANGERED SPECIES

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[Science Club]

Endangered species, animals or plants that are considered at risk of extinction. In 1973 Congress enacted Endangered Species Act under which the federal government has taken the responsibility to protect them both nationally and worldwide. When a species is given ESA protection they are said to be "listed" species and many additional species are evaluated for possible protection known as "candidate" species. Each year on the 3rd Friday of May is celebrated as Endangered Species Day.

Species become endangered mainly because of two reasons: loss of habitat and loss of genetic variation. Dinosaurs, for instance, lost their habitat about a 65million years ago. The development of housing, industry and agriculture played a greater role in reducing the habitat of native organisms. It leads to increased encounters between wild species and people like poisonous plants and fungi grow closer to homes and schools. Polar bears, mountain lions and alligators lost their habitat to homes, farms and businesses and came close to people and people killed them through pesticides accidents or hunting.

Groups of species tend to inbreed which have a little genetic variation that doesn't allow them to develop resistance to diseases resulting in fewer offspring of inbred groups to survive to maturity. Cheetahs, a threatened species, went through a long period of inbreeding resulting in very few genetic differences between them, so they can't adapt to change in the environment like other animals. Even overhunting and overfishing reduces populations resulting in fewer breeding pairs, hence genetic variation shrinks.



### DID YOU KNOW?

*The Dreadnoughtus, a dinosaur that was around 77 million years ago, was the largest land animal that ever lived.*