



NATURAL SCIENCE CENTER
OF GREENSBORO

Community Service Through Science

Endangered Species

Program Length: Approximately 45 minutes

Science Presentations

The Science Presentation you have scheduled is designed to help illustrate the science concepts taught in the classroom and to stimulate student interest in the subject matter.

Program Description

What causes animals and plants to become endangered and what can be done to protect these vanishing species? Live animals, artifacts, and audio-visuals will be used to help students understand the complex variety of factors that can cause an entire species to vanish. Animal species discussed will include sea turtles, alligators, lemurs, black-footed ferrets and red-cockaded woodpeckers.

Program Concepts

- 1) Extinction involves the elimination of an entire species of life (plant or animal).
- 2) Extinction is a process that can be natural or induced by human activities.
- 3) Extinction is often preventable.
- 4) 'Endangered' and 'threatened' are classifications used to identify species in danger of extinction.
- 5) There are a variety of reasons why species become endangered.

Program Outline

- 1) Identify the terms *threatened*, *endangered*, and *extinct*
- 2) Identify various conditions that can lead to extinction
 - a. overhunting (whales, alligators)
 - b. accidental killing (dolphins, turtles)
 - c. pollution: pesticides (pelicans, eagles), water pollution (turtles)
 - d. habitat destruction: breeding habitat (salamanders, turtles)
rainforest destruction (lemurs, butterflies)
fire-maintained habitat (woodpeckers)
 - e. natural changes: climactic changes (ice ages, meteor collision)

Vocabulary

tide	whale	lemur	baleen	extinct	Morpho butterfly
habitat	alligator	pollution	climate	threatened	black-footed ferret
prairie dog	rain forest	dinosaur	predator	endangered	loggerhead sea turtle

