

# My Favourite Zoo Animal

My favourite zoo animal is...

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because...

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Year 5 Trip to Twycross Zoo

# ENDANGERED SPECIES



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Giraffes



## Location in the wild



East Africa, or southwest Africa.

## Habitat

Savannas, grasslands or open woodlands. Giraffes prefer areas enriched with acacia growth (shrubs and trees).

## Threats to this species



Climate change is threatening their habitat and food supply.



'Trophy hunters' sometimes kill these animals for fun to have their photograph taken with them.



## Why should they be protected?

Giraffes have a vital role in the environment: through their digestive system, they spread seeds and help plants to germinate.



Giraffes live in harmony in their environment. Their long necks enable them to see predators from a long distance. They help smaller animals escape by warning them.

## Facts about giraffes

- Giraffes are the tallest mammals on earth and can grow up to 6m.
- Giraffes drink large quantities of water and as a result, they can spend long periods of time in dry, arid areas.
- Giraffes rest standing with their eyes open. Throughout the night, a giraffe may deeply sleep for five to 10 minutes lying down, yet they rarely sleep more than 20 minutes total per day.



# Orangutan



## Natural Environment

(Read the information about its location in the wild and habitat. Imagine you were stood in its natural wild habitat: describe the environment.)

What can you see, hear, smell & touch? What is the weather like?

## How is this species suited to its environment in the wild?

(Read the information about its habitat and look closely at the real-life animal's body parts and features.)

This species is suited to its environment because...

## How have the zoo tried to re-create its natural environment?

(Look closely at the animal's zoo enclosure. How have the zoo-keepers tried to re-create their natural environment to enable the species to live comfortably?)

## What could we do to help protect the species from being endangered?

(Read the information about threats and why they should be protected. Come up with your own ideas for solutions.)

My ideas to protect this species from extinction include:

# Orangutans



## Location in the wild



Borneo & Sumatra

## Habitat

Only found in the rain forests of the Southeast Asian islands of Borneo and Sumatra

## Threats to this species



Climate change is threatening their habitat and food supply.



Huge areas of rainforest are being cleared every day to make way for palm oil plantations, meaning their habitat is being destroyed.



## Why should they be protected?

Orangutans are thought to be the sole fruit dispenser for some plant species. They eat the fruit and excrete the seeds, which then grow into new plants. Without orangutans, lots of plant species would die out.



By helping plants to grow, orangutans maintain the health of the forest ecosystem, which is important for people and a host of other animals, including tigers, Asian elephants and Sumatran rhinos. So, by conserving the orangutan's habitat, we're also benefiting local communities and other species.

## Facts about orangutans

- They spend nearly their entire lives in trees—swinging in tree tops and building nests for sleep.
- Orangutans like to live alone. They make loud calls and shake branches to keep others away. Air sacs in the throat, which extend under the arm pits and shoulders mean that these calls can be heard up to 1 kilometre away.



# Giraffes



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# Gorillas



## Location in the wild



Gorillas live in the moist, tropical rainforests of Africa.

### Habitat

Gorillas habitats are split into mountain gorillas and lowland gorillas.

### Threats to this species



Their natural habitats are being destroyed to make way for palm oil plantations.



Poachers often hunt gorillas as they can be worth a lot of money on the illegal 'bush-meat' trade.

### Why should they be protected?



Gorillas have a vital role in the environment: through their digestive system, they spread seeds and help forests to grow.



Safe, eco-tourism allowing tourist to visit gorillas, whilst keeping them safe in their wild habitat, can generate a good income for the community and also help to protect them from poachers.

### Facts about gorillas



- Although gorillas are very much like humans, they do not use only their legs to walk on. Instead they walk in what is known as the 'knuckle-walk'. By doing this, gorillas walk with both their long arms and legs.
- Gorillas roll their fingers into their hands like a sort of fist and apply pressure on the knuckles as they move along. Gorillas are very good at climbing trees with their long, flexible limbs, however, gorillas cannot swim.
- Gorillas do not need to drink water as they get the moisture they need from the foliage that they eat.

# Tigers



### Natural Environment

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# Tigers



## Location in the wild



Tigers can be found in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and in southern Tibet.

### Habitat

Grasslands, rainforests and swamps.

### Threats to this species



Poachers kill tigers not only for their pelts (coats), but also to make various traditional East Asian medicines.



Revenge killing occurs as locals such as farmers who own livestock hunt down the tigers to prevent them from preying on their cattle.



### Why should they be protected?

The yellow area on the map above shows where tigers used to live and the red area shows where they live now. As you can see, they are an endangered species.



Because tigers serve as **apex predators**, and the largest carnivore in their ecosystem, they control natural prey populations. This in turn controls primary producers (vegetation) eaten by tiger prey. This connection to the food web is essential, underscoring the importance of tiger conservation.

### Facts about tigers



- Tigers have the longest canine teeth of any living animal measuring approximately 10cm.
- They also have large, retractable claws that allow them to climb and kill prey. Their stripes help them camouflage as they stalk their prey.
- Tigers have excellent vision and good hearing.

# Gorillas



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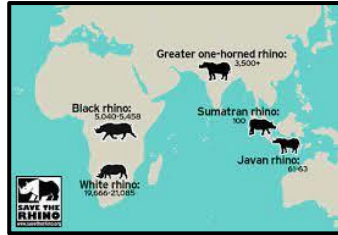
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# Rhinos



## Location in the wild



Africa, Nepal & Sumatra (Indonesia).

## Habitat

Rhinos' habitats include tropical and subtropical grasslands, savannas and shrublands, tropical moist forests, deserts and shrubland

## Threats to this species



Unfortunately, rhinos are a severely endangered species.



Rhinos are often killed for their horns as some cultures use it to make medicines or for ornaments.



## Why should they be protected?

Rhinos are one of the oldest groups of mammals, virtually living fossils.



They play an important role in their habitats and in countries like Namibia, rhinos are an important source of income from ecotourism.



The protection of black rhinos creates large blocks of land for conservation purposes. This benefits many other species too, including elephants.

## Facts about rhinoceroses

- The rhino 'horn' is made from Keratin, the same chemical substance that our finger nails and hair are made of.
- Despite many rhinos being killed for their horns, if a rhino's horn is broken off, it will actually grow back again.



# Lemurs



## Natural Environment

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What can you see, hear, smell & touch?  
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# Lemurs



## Location in the wild



Madagascar, which is an island east of Africa.

### Habitat

Lemurs occupy many different habitats: dry deciduous forests, spiny forests, rain forests, wetlands and mountains.

### Threats to this species



Lemurs are threatened species as their natural habitat is being destroyed by humans.



People in Madagascar cut down the forests there to use the wood, and to grow agricultural crops.

### Why should they be protected?



Lemurs play an important role in the ecology of Madagascar, because they disperse seeds from the fruit they eat.



These seeds can then grow into new plants, which is important because the forests of Madagascar are being destroyed at a very high rate.

### Facts about lemurs

- Lemurs use their sense of smell to communicate with each other. Lemurs have scent glands on their behinds and on their feet that leave odours on surfaces they encounter. When other lemurs pass by, they smell those odours and can tell that another lemur has been there.
- In the mornings, Lemurs usually bask to warm themselves. They face the sun, sitting in what is frequently described as a 'sun-worshipping' posture



worshipping' posture

# Rhinos



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## Have a safe day out

In line with government guidance we have made some changes to your usual day out. You'll notice that we have installed protective screens at our ticket kiosks, Guest Services and Catering Kiosks around the zoo to reduce contact between you and our staff.

You will be required to wear face coverings in all indoor areas and all indoor animal enclosures. Face masks are available to purchase at Guest Services, Pay Booths and entrance to the Himalaya Gift Shop.

There will be reminders around the zoo about following the government's 2-metre social distancing guidelines, while following our one-way route around tight areas of the zoo.

You'll be able to enjoy grab-n-go food and drinks at our Kiosks, The Catch Fish Bar, Explorer Coffee House and Costa Coffee.

Up to date guidance will be available on the day of your visit or on our website: [www.twycrosszoo.org](http://www.twycrosszoo.org)

Download our app and follow the one-way route around the zoo and get lots of information too!

Available on:  

If you're not feeling well with either one or more of the symptoms of Covid-19 - fever, dry cough, loss of taste or smell, muscle pain, headache or difficulty breathing - please stay at home, follow government and NHS 111 advice and we'll be here once you're better.

## Facilities

-  Food & drink kiosk
-  Toilet
-  Accessible toilets
-  Baby changing
-  Picnic area
-  Information
-  First Aid - Please ask the nearest member of staff
-  Gift shop
-  Hand wash / sanitiser
-  Changing places