



RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS

THREATENED SPECIES AND AMAZON STAMPS

Background

To celebrate our 50th anniversary, and the work that WWF carries out to protect species and habitat around the world, Royal Mail are releasing a set of commemorative stamps - 10 first class threatened species stamps and a set of four first class Amazon species stamps.

Every day, species are becoming extinct at up to 1,000 times or more the natural rate. The reasons for this include the destruction of habitats, converting land for agriculture, pollution and the spread of invasive species, to name only some of the threats responsible for today's crisis. Over a third of the species so far assessed by the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) are threatened with extinction. The African elephant, mountain gorilla, Siberian tiger, polar bear, Amur leopard, Iberian lynx, red panda, black rhinoceros, African wild dog, golden lion tamarin, which feature on the stamps are all classified by the IUCN as threatened. And the things we buy and the waste we produce all contribute to species loss. WWF is working with international organisations, governments and local communities to conserve the world's ecosystems and endangered species including those featured on the stamps.

The Amazon stamps highlight the work we are carrying out to prevent deforestation, an important part of tackling climate change and safeguarding unique forest habitats and the species that live there. The species featured in the stamps will include the hyacinth macaw, spider monkey, Amazon poison frog and the jaguar.

We hope the stamps will help people to realise the special role that WWF has played over the past 50 years in protecting species and preserving the natural world that we live in, as well as raising awareness of the need to support our work for future generations. To find out more about the species featured in the stamps and how you can support our work to preserve them and their habitat, go to wwf.org.uk/50 The stamps are available from post offices or www.royalmail.co.uk

Activities

These activities are designed to offer primary schools with a range of activities that will explore the species highlighted on the Threatened Species and Amazon stamps. Background information about the species can be found on the wwf.org.uk and purchase of the stamps is not necessary.

CREATE A FACTFILE

Using the wwf.org.uk website and other resources such as www.arkive.org, ask your students to create a factfile about one of the species highlighted on the stamps. This could include information about:

- Its habitat
- The country where it lives
- Conservation status
- Factors that threaten it
- Things that we can do to help
- Top five surprising facts!





SPECIES TREASURE TRIAL

Once pupils have undertaken their fact-files, they could then create a “Species Treasure Trail” around the school.

Place a series of numbered fact cards with information about four or more of the species (you could use some of the facts that the children have researched in the first activity) at different places around the school. Challenge pupils to find the cards and match the information with the correct species. Remind pupils to leave the cards for other groups to find. This activity will help you to involve your whole school with the topic.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF

Encourage your pupils to take on the role of one of the species featured in the stamps. In their role, they could create “A day in the life of” biography which could include information such as:

- Where they live
- Their early lives i.e. thinking about how they were born, how they were raised etc.
- Their personality
- Their hopes and fears for the future.

As an extension, you could also use this research as a starting point for a piece of drama. Pupils could design and make some masks and/or finger/sock/paper bag/shadow puppets of the species on the stamps.

CREATE A WORD STREAM

Pupils could watch the video on wwf.org.uk and also on www.arkive.org and then generate lists of adjectives, similes, words to describe movement, personality, emotion, texture, atmosphere, colour ... They could then create a poem or a picture which reflects these word streams which could build up into a class display.



goodies, as well as seeing their postcard professionally printed.
Closing date: 31 May 2011.

HABITAT BOXES - HOMEWORK ACTIVITY

Set a homework activity where the pupil uses a shoe box and creates a mini-scene showing the animal in their habitat. You could then create a display of them in your school with some other examples of work related to this topic. Send photographs of your best habitat boxes to oneplanetschools@wwf.org.uk and will send a small token to your pupils (maximum of 20 per school please!).

Resource sheet 1

Species under threat quiz

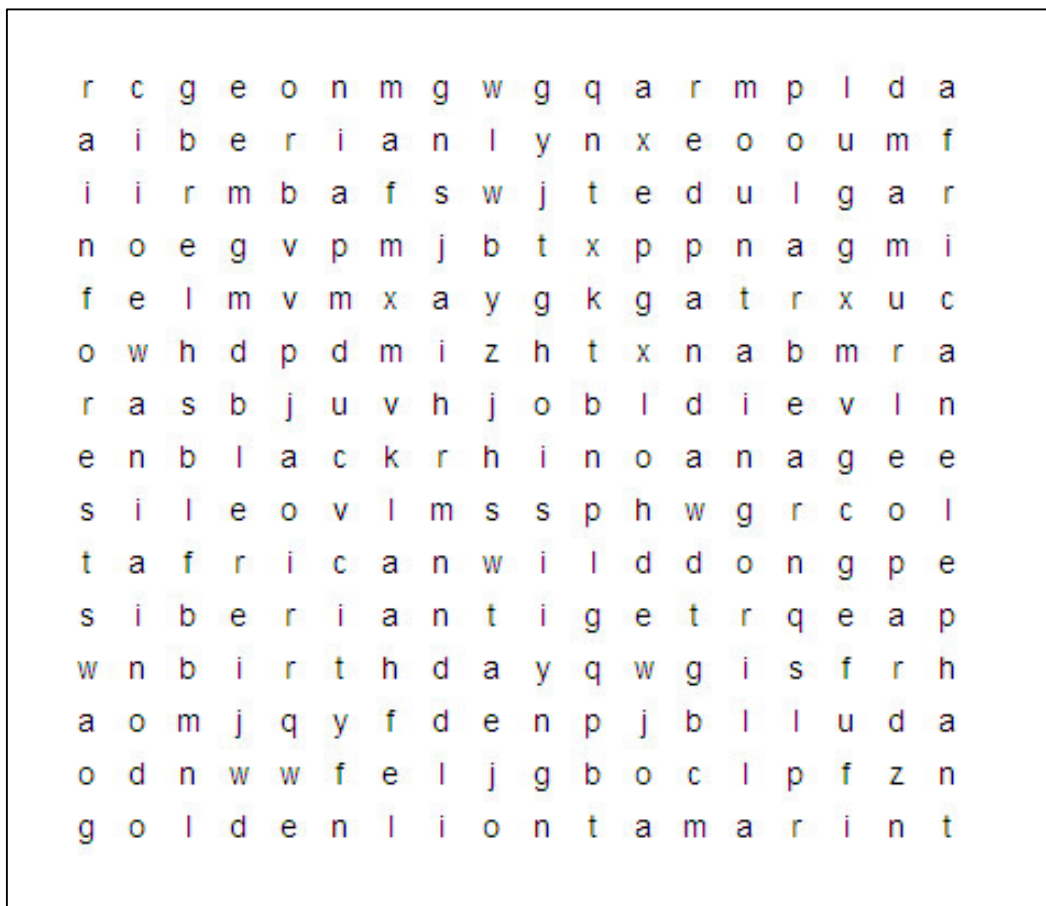
1. Which of the species on the stamps is slightly larger than a domestic cat and also known as the Fire Fox?
2. Which of the species on the stamps is able to go without eating for 8 months and has bumps and grooves that act like suction pads on the soles of its feet?
3. Which of the species on the stamps is grey, measure about 160cm at the shoulder, has poor eyesight and lives on its own?
4. Which of the species on the stamps measures about 50cm at the shoulder, feeds on rabbits and lives in the wild in Spain and Portugal?
5. Which of the species on the stamps is about 1.7m tall, live near volcanoes, eat lots of leaves, lives in family groups, builds nests and are very flatulent?
6. Which of the species on the stamps has a name that means 'beast that kills its prey with one bound', includes about 85 species in its diet and was regarded by ancient civilisations like the Aztecs as a symbol of warriors, Kings and Queens?
7. Which of the species on the stamps is about 1 metre tall, is illegally trapped and sold as pets and eats mainly nuts (one of these nuts, the Acuri, is so tough that it has to pass through the stomachs of cattle before it can be eaten).



Resource sheet 2

Threatened species word search

Find the following:



goldenliontamarin

polarbear

redpanda

blackrhino

mountaingorilla

siberiantiger

iberianlynx

rainforest

amazon


amurleopard

wwf

birthday

africanwilddog

africanelephant

	<p>Why we are here To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. www.panda.org</p>
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