



What All Plants and Animals Need To Survive

Think what it would be like to have to live in the wild. In order to survive, you would need four basic things: food, water, shelter and space. Food is what you would need to keep your body in good shape. Food would also help to keep you warm in the winter. Water is necessary for helping circulate food through your body and getting rid of waste. Water is also useful for keeping you from overheating in the summer. A shelter is your home. Wind, snow and other kinds of weather can be very harmful unless there is some protection. Space is having enough room to grow and live. A small flower may need only a few centimetres to grow, while a grizzly bear needs several hundred kilometres of land.

If you were to lose one of these four basic elements, your ability to survive for very long would quickly disappear. This happens to some wild plants and animals every day in Canada and around the world. When the place where an animal or plant lives, called a "habitat", is carelessly destroyed, it loses its food, water, shelter and space. When a plant





or animal can no longer survive to the point where there are almost none left, they are called “endangered species”. If nothing is done to help them survive, they could disappear altogether. When the plant or animal no longer lives anywhere on earth, they are called “extinct”.

In Canada, there are about 190 endangered plants and animals that need help to survive. Ask your leaders or family to help you find out about one of them, and talk about what can be done to save them.

The endangered species I found out about was:



How people can help this species survive:



If you would like to learn more about helping Canada's and the world's endangered species, you can write to:

The World Wildlife Fund
245 Eglinton Avenue E.
Suite 410
Toronto, ON
M4P 3J1
www.wwf.org

Or check out the following web sites:
www.cwf-fcf.org (The Canadian Wildlife Federation)
www.cosepac.gc.ca (COSEWIC, Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada)