


Key Vocabulary Overview	
biodiversity	the variety of living things in a particular place
endangered	animals or plants that are at risk of no longer existing
extinct	animals or plants that no longer exist
rewilding	the process of helping ecosystems to recover naturally
habitat	the natural place in which something lives, providing living things with everything they need to survive

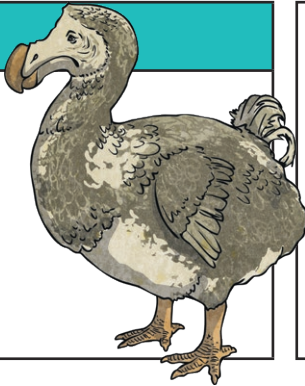
Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the variety of living things that live within a certain area. A **habitat** with high **biodiversity** will have many varieties of plants and animals living there. The level of **biodiversity** in an area can increase and decrease.

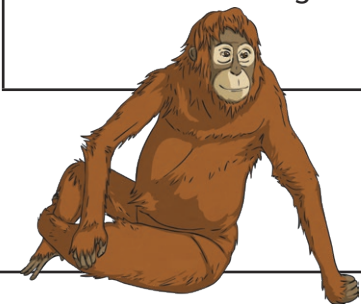


Extinct

Living things that no longer exist are referred to as '**extinct**'. This can happen for many reasons, including a changing climate or hunting.



Dodos became extinct due to overhunting and the introduction of invasive species to their habitat.



Orangutans are easy targets for hunters and struggle for survival when forests are cut down.

Endangered

'**Endangered**' is the term given to plants or animals that are at risk of becoming **extinct**.

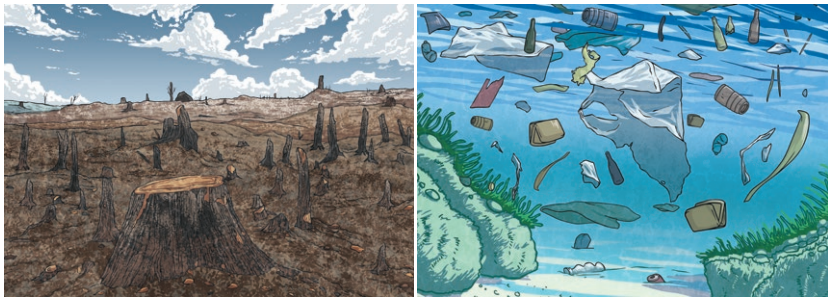
Habitat destruction is one of the main reasons why plants and animals become **endangered**.

Disclaimer: While every care has been taken to ensure that there are no significant emotional triggers regarding eco-anxiety for children in this lesson, any feelings that arise should be embraced and discussed non-judgmentally.

Human Impact on Biodiversity

Humans can have a negative impact on **biodiversity**. Here are some examples.

- cutting down a large number of trees
- littering
- pollution from farming and factories
- overfishing
- clearing land for building



Measuring Biodiversity

We can measure the level of biodiversity of a habitat by observing and counting the number of different types of plant and animal in a particular area.



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Increasing Biodiversity

Humans can also have a positive impact on **biodiversity**.

Tree planting is a good way to increase **biodiversity** in your local area.

Creating a 'no mow' zone in a garden, park or playing field allows grasses and flowers to grow and attract insects and other wildlife.



'**Rewilding**' means reintroducing living things to an area and letting the wildlife take over. In certain areas of the UK, Eurasian beavers have been reintroduced. Their dams have reduced flooding and encouraged new plant growth.



Many housing developments now have to include green spaces and ways to encourage wildlife in their plans to reduce the impact they have.

Small acts from lots of people can have a big positive impact on global **biodiversity**.

