UNIT 1

ANIMALS

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Key Reading Skills
Reading for main ideas; using a Venn diagram

Additional Reading Skills
Understanding key vocabulary; using your knowledge; reading for details; working out meaning; predicting content using visuals; taking notes; summarizing; making inferences; synthesizing

Language Development
Academic verbs; comparative adjectives

ACTIVATE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Work with a partner. Discuss the questions.

1. In your opinion, is it better to see animals in a zoo or in nature? Why?
2. Are there more wild animals in your country now, or were there more in the past? Why? Give examples.
3. Why do some people enjoy having animals in their homes?
4. Do humans need animals? Why or why not?
5. Are animals important in your life? Why?
**READING 1**

**PREPARING TO READ**

1. UNDERSTANDING KEY VOCABULARY  
Read the definitions. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in bold.

| chemical | man-made or natural substance made by changing atoms |
| destroy  | to damage something very badly; to cause it to not exist |
| due to   | because of; as a result of |
| endangered | (of plants and animals) that may disappear soon |
| natural | as found in nature; not made or caused by people |
| pollute | to make an area or substance dirty and unhealthful |
| protect | to keep something or someone safe from damage or injury |
| species | types of plants or animals that have similar features |

1. The black rhino is one of the most ____________ animals in the world. There are only about 5,000 left today.
2. There are three ____________ of bears in North America. They are the American black bear, the grizzly bear, and the polar bear.
3. Dangerous ____________ from factories can kill fish and other animals when they enter lakes and rivers.
4. Smoke from factories can ____________ the air and hurt both humans and animals.
5. When new homes are built, it often ____________ the areas where animals live.
6. Few people visited the zoo last week ____________ the cold weather.
7. I don’t like zoos. I prefer to see animals in their ____________ environments.
8. Many organizations are working to ____________ endangered animals by creating safe places for them to live.
### Reading 1

#### Using Your Knowledge

Look at the title of the article on pages 18–19. What do you think it will be about? Complete the chart with the names of endangered and extinct species you know.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Endangered Species</th>
<th>Extinct Species</th>
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An endangered species is a group of animals or plants that could soon become extinct. Extinction happens when the last animal of the species has died out and there will be no more. Many species are nearly extinct and could disappear from the Earth very soon if we don’t do anything to save them. There are many reasons why species become endangered, but most harm to species is due to human activities such as habitat destruction, hunting, and overfishing.

Habitat destruction is the main reason why animals become endangered. This happens in two ways. First, when humans move into a new area, they cut down trees to build houses and farms. This destroys the animals’ habitat—the natural environment where plants or animals usually live—and leaves them without food. Animal habitats are also destroyed because of pollution. Dirty water from factories, which contains chemicals, ends up in rivers, and poisons used on farmland may even kill animals that live in the area.

Endangered species are also the result of hunting and fishing. Animals such as the Arabian oryx are nearly extinct because of the high price of their meat. Other animals are killed for their fur, bones, or skin—or just for sport. For example, some seal species are now almost extinct because they are killed for their fur to make coats. Tigers are shot to make medicine and tea from their bones, and crocodiles are caught to make bags and shoes. Large sea creatures like whales, tuna, and sharks have all become endangered species because
What steps can individuals and governments take to protect more animal and plant species from becoming endangered?

of overfishing—too many are caught to make special dishes that people like to eat, such as shark’s fin soup or sushi.

4 What steps can individuals and governments take to protect more animal and plant species from becoming endangered? We should try not to pollute natural areas, and farmers or companies who destroy animal habitats should face a financial penalty. The public can help out by refusing to buy products made from animals’ body parts, such as seal fur coats or crocodile bags. Governments can help, too, by making it against the law to hunt, fish, or trade in endangered species. They can also provide funding for animal sanctuaries and zoos and protect animals from extinction by breeding more endangered animals, which can later be released into the wild. If we all cooperate by taking these steps, we will protect our planet so that our children and their children can enjoy it, too.
**READING FOR MAIN IDEAS**

Read the article again and write the paragraph number next to the main ideas.

a How hunting and overfishing endanger animals

b The definition of endangered and extinct species

c How governments and citizens can protect animals

d How humans destroy and pollute animal habitats

**READING FOR DETAILS**

Work with a partner. Answer the questions.

1 Who or what is most responsible for animal extinction and endangered species?

2 How does pollution and cutting down trees cause problems for animals?

3 What do people hunt animals for?

4 Which large sea creatures are endangered because of overfishing?

5 What can individuals do to protect animals from becoming endangered?

6 What should governments do about hunting and fishing of animals?

7 What should governments invest in to get more animals back into the wild?
READING BETWEEN THE LINES

6 WORKING OUT MEANING Read the last paragraph of the article again. Underline the words and phrases with the same meaning as the words in italics.

1 Companies who destroy animal habitats should pay a fine.
2 You should help to protect animals by choosing not to buy fur.
3 We can make it illegal to hunt, fish, or trade in endangered species.
4 Governments can pay for animal sanctuaries and zoos.
5 If we work together by taking this action, we can protect our planet.

CRITICAL THINKING

7 Work with a partner. Discuss the questions.

APPLY
What are some more examples of products that are made from animal parts? Do you use any of these products?

ANALYZE
Should governments spend money to save animal habitats even if this means there is less money for things people need, such as hospitals?

EVALUATE
Why is it a problem if some plants and animals die out?

COLLABORATION

8 A Work in a small group. Choose an endangered species and make a fact sheet about it. Include the following information:

- Description of its habitat
- Threats or dangers to it

B Present your fact sheets to the class. As a class, choose an endangered species to sponsor.
PREPARING TO READ

1 UNDERSTANDING KEY VOCABULARY  Read the definitions. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in bold.

- common (adj) happening often or existing in large numbers
- cruel (adj) causing pain or suffering on purpose
- disease (n) illness; a serious health condition that requires care
- fatal (adj) causing death
- major (adj) most serious or important
- native (adj) used to describe animals and plants that grow naturally in a place
- survive (v) to continue to live after almost dying

1 The coyote, a wild member of the dog family, is so ________________ in the western United States that they can be seen in cities.

2 Plastic is often ________________ to sea birds. Millions of birds die each year when they swallow plastic bags and other plastic garbage.

3 The flu is a common ________________ in humans, but some animals, such as horses, birds, seals, and whales, can also get forms of the flu.

4 Many people believe that it is ________________ to keep animals in zoos, where they can’t move around freely.

5 Habitat loss is the ________________ cause of species extinction in the Amazon River region.

6 Gray whales are endangered, but there is a chance that they will ________________ because many countries have stopped hunting them.

7 There are many unique species that are ________________ to the island of Madagascar, including more than 80 kinds of snakes.
2 PREDICTING CONTENT USING VISUALS Work with a partner. Look at the photos in the article on pages 24–25 and discuss the questions.

1 What are the animals in the photos?
2 Do you have them in your country? How do people feel about them?
3 Which animal do you think is endangered? Why?