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English

October 8, 2013

Period 4A

Endangered Species

This essay is about endangered species. My first topic is about the endangered species. The second topic is about the things scientists are doing to help. The third topic is what we can do to help them survive. The species that I will be talking about are bison, foxes, and wolfs. There are many endangered animals we need to help.

The first endangered species I am talking about is the bison. Historically, bison numbered an estimated 20-30 million. Unregulated shooting of bison, which culminated in mass slaughters during the 1870s, reduced the population to 1,091 in 1889. Today, approximately 500,000 bison live across North America. The second one is the red fox. Red foxes live around the world in many diverse habitats including forests, grasslands, mountains, and deserts. Red foxes are hunted for sport, though not extensively, and are sometimes killed as destructive pests or frequent carriers of rabies. The last and third one is the gray wolf. The wolf is the largest member of the canine family. Gray wolves range in color from grizzled gray or black to all-white. Wolves eat ungulates, or large hoofed mammals, like elk, deer, moose and caribou. Around the world there are an estimated 200,000 in 57 countries, compared to up to 2 million in earlier times. Wolves were once common throughout all of North America but were killed in most areas of the United States by the mid-1930s.

One of the communities that help the endangered species is the World Wildlife Foundation. Saving wildlife is at the core of WWF’s mission. Why? The animal populations are disappearing at an alarming rate. But even in the face of threats like poaching, habitat loss and overuse of natural resources, WWF is creating a better future for wildlife every day. Protecting these species also contributes to a thriving, healthy planet for people’s health and well-being—from forests that slow climate change and filter water to oceans that provide more than one-sixth of the world’s food. Another one is Animal Planet. Because they have all these people that teach others about the endangered animals and what we (citizens) can do to help. So Animal Planet is saying the same thing WWF is saying. The last one is the Defenders of Wildlife. Here is what they say; “For more than 30 years, the Endangered Species Act has helped prevent the extinction of our nation's wildlife treasures including beloved symbols of America such as the bald eagle, the Florida manatee and the California condor...”

I will be talking about some ways we can do to help. One way we can help endangered species is to raise awareness about a certain species; this will let us be able to help them greatly by trying to get people to protect them. Another is to open up space for them; this will let them have room for their habitats and their hunting grounds (if carnivore). Another is to plant native plants for that area; because the animals live there, the habitat suits them and the plant is part of the habitat. The last one is the one that most people hear, reduce, reuse, and recycle; this will let some trees and other plants survive which will let the animals survive because the habitat is surviving.

So now that we are at the end, I can tell you the summary of this and back up my thesis. There are many and many species that are endangered out in the world. We are the ones that can and should help them. In 2010 17,315 species were listed as vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered. That's out of 1,740,330 described species (which is probably only a fraction of the number of species actually in existence). There are tens of thousands of endangered species.

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