



PROTECTING WILDLIFE AT RISK

There are many amazing plants and animals, but some are at risk of disappearing. This guide will help students understand what a species at risk is, the common threats that make life hard for wildlife, and the different types of protected areas in Canada that help protect plants and animals.

WILDLIFE AT RISK

When a species has trouble surviving in the wild, it may be called a threatened species. Scientists put species into groups based on how much help they need. This helps us know how to best manage them before they are gone forever.

- **Special concern:** A species that could be in trouble in the future because of different threats.
- **Threatened:** A species that is in danger of becoming endangered if threats are not reversed.
- **Endangered:** A species that is very close to extirpation or extinction.
- **Extirpated:** A species that no longer exists in the wild in Canada, but is found elsewhere.
- **Extinct:** A species that no longer exists.

SIX THREATS TO WILDLIFE EXPLAINED TO KIDS

Habitat loss Habitat loss happens when forest, fields, or wetlands are cleared to build homes, roads, or farms, leaving animals with no place to live and find food.

Habitat fragmentation Habitat fragmentation happens when habitat gets cut into pieces and animals can not longer access all the resources they need.

Global warming Global warming is when the Earth's temperature rises because of greenhouse gases from things people do, causing climate change. This can lead to more extreme heat events, floods, or droughts which make it harder for plants and animals to survive.

Pollution Pollution happens when air, water, and land get dirty from waste or chemicals, which means plants can't grow as well and animals get sick.

Invasive species An invasive species is a plant or animal that comes from somewhere else and takes over the space and food that native species need.

Overconsumption Overconsumption is when people use too many natural resources, leaving fewer materials and healthy habitats for plants and animals.

PROTECTED AREAS: CANADA'S WAY TO HELP

Canada has special places where wildlife can live safely. [Protected Areas](#) give wildlife safe homes and to help animals find food, raise their young, and stay healthy for the future. While many can be visited, some are closed to protect fragile ecosystems. They are used for research and generally have management plans to ensure they stay healthy and safe.



National Wildlife Areas are protected areas of land or water where scientists study nature, protect wildlife, and keep important habitats safe – especially for animals at risk. Some of these areas are open to the public.

[Cape Jourimain National Wildlife Area](#)

A coastal area in New Brunswick that protects marsh and island habitats for birds and other wildlife.

National Parks are protected areas created to keep habitats, wildlife, and ecosystems safe in important locations. They include mountains, forests, tundra, lakes, glaciers, and are open to the public.

[Banff National Park](#) One of Canada's most famous mountain parks protecting wildlife and landscapes in the Rockies.

Migratory Bird Sanctuaries are protected land and water areas that give birds safe places to rest and nest while feeding, breeding, or traveling to their summer or winter homes. Many are open to the public.

[Îles aux Hérons Migratory Bird Sanctuary](#)

A nesting place for the great blue heron located near Montreal.

Marine Protected Areas are protected ocean areas that protect fish, whales and other sea life and the habitats they depend on. Many are open to the public.

[Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area](#) One of Canada's largest marine protected areas in the Arctic Ocean.

National Marine Conservation Areas protect important ocean and freshwater habitats safe. They are open to the public.

[Fathom Five National Marine Park](#) A freshwater marine conservation area in Ontario's Georgian Bay.

