

# Articles and Activities about Protecting the Environment #4

## Wildlife, Organic Materials, and Conservation

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# Preserving Wildlife



In order for the Earth to function properly, it needs to maintain a certain balance of humans, plants, and animals. The animals provide food and materials for many humans, while the plants provide food and materials for many animals and humans. Therefore, it is important to preserve wildlife so the earth can continue functioning properly.

Animal preservation is extremely crucial. Many species (such as dinosaurs) are now extinct, and others are endangered (such as whales and elephants.) This is because of human activity damaging them, their environment, and their food. Instead of harming animals, humans should do our best to protect and preserve them.

Some animals may seem to be annoying, like bugs or snakes, but each animal has a specific purpose in the world. For instance, many people dislike spiders, but they are actually very helpful animals. Spiders use their webs to catch mosquitoes and flies so the Earth does not get overpopulated by these and other bugs.

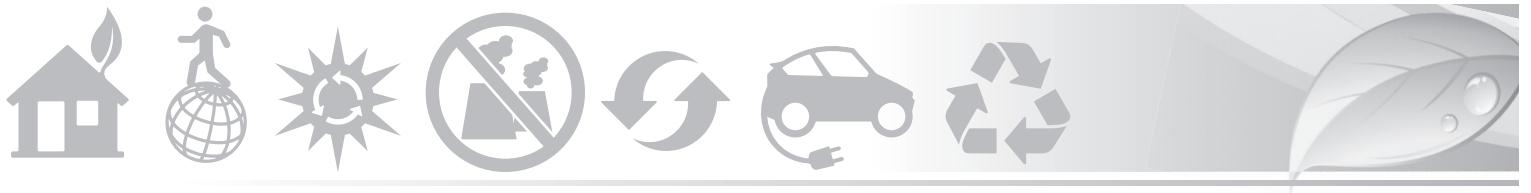


Imagine if someone filled your home with piles of garbage. It would be a filthy, unpleasant place to live! Imagine if someone burned your house, and all your neighbors' homes, to the ground. Your entire neighborhood would need to relocate and find new homes to live in. This is what is happening to many animals all over the world. Natural disasters, such as fires, floods, and earthquakes, are harming their homes. But human activity is also hurting them. Too much hunting, overfishing, pollution, and construction are forcing animals from their natural habitats to find new homes. And if human activity doesn't directly harm animals, it can harm the plants they rely on for food.

Some people feel so strongly about animal rights that they become vegetarians. This means they will not eat any meat or fish, and some will not eat eggs, honey or milk, or any products that come directly from an animal. While vegetarianism isn't for everyone, each person should be concerned about preserving animals and other wildlife and do their best to support this issue. You can find out about your state's endangered plants and animals and how to help them at: <http://www.endangeredspecies.com/map.htm>.

## Preservation Tips:

When going to a park or nature preserve, try to leave things the way they were when you arrived. Don't take home many rocks, leaves, or small animals. Clean up your garbage after a picnic, and encourage others to do the same.



# Activities



Make a bird bath. Using a large, shallow plastic lid, a garbage can lid, or something that is similarly shaped, you can watch the birds bathe in your own back yard (or at school). Fill this container with water, making sure it is no more than an inch deep. Place this "bath" outside and sprinkle some birdseed close by to attract some feathered friends.



Contact your local humane society and organize a day for the class to volunteer at their animal shelter.



As a class, visit a local zoo or national park and learn more about wildlife and how you can help preserve it. Or, take a teacher-led exploration through a local park or wildlife preserve and observe animals in their habitats. Discuss what you see. How are the animals interacting with what is around them?



Have the class discuss and list several animals or bugs they dislike. Divide the class into teams and assign an animal to each team. Each team must research their animal and explain to the rest of the class how that animal benefits the world.



# Organic Scrambler

Circle the organic words in the word search below.

1. leaf
2. fruit
3. vegetable
4. insects
5. mulch
6. natural
7. soil



W	L	M	K	N	B	V	V	P	N	O	R	E	L	B	A	T	E	G	E	V	T	E	D	K
L	E	A	F	K	U	Y	G	R	N	L	R	L	I	G	C	E	P	O	I	L	E	E	C	A
F	H	O	L	I	Y	C	V	B	A	G	R	E	C	X	T	G	J	L	L	O	N	E	L	H
O	R	I	O	L	K	N	U	R	C	R	W	U	P	J	K	L	M	E	B	I	U	F	C	I
P	J	U	O	P	T	F	U	V	C	B	G	H	N	K	L	K	S	D	E	I	O	L	Y	H
F	G	B	I	J	M	T	V	E	D	S	T	G	H	U	N	B	F	C	V	J	U	S	Y	U
O	J	H	T	T	A	K	L	I	B	N	R	Y	H	C	V	E	T	O	I	M	N	G	P	G
P	I	J	U	N	H	T	U	G	B	I	N	S	E	C	T	S	M	L	T	H	O	N	P	W