

Endangered Animals

Discussion Guide

Grades 4-8

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- Discuss the importance of taking care of endangered animals. How can that be done? Why should it be done?
- Before reading, have a class discussion to activate prior knowledge about the endangered animals. What are they? What happens to make them endangered? Make a list of student generated responses on an anchor chart or whiteboard.
- Frontload vocabulary: endangered, animals, extinct, water, land, protect, habitat

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

- What are you learning about how some animals become endangered?
- Are the illustrations helpful in recognizing these animals?
- Make a list of 5 animals in the story who are listed as endangered, and the 2 animals that were described as being extinct?

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

Using the book and your memory of the story and the illustrations, draw 5 of the animals in the story. Think about their shape & coloring. Label each one that you draw.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.