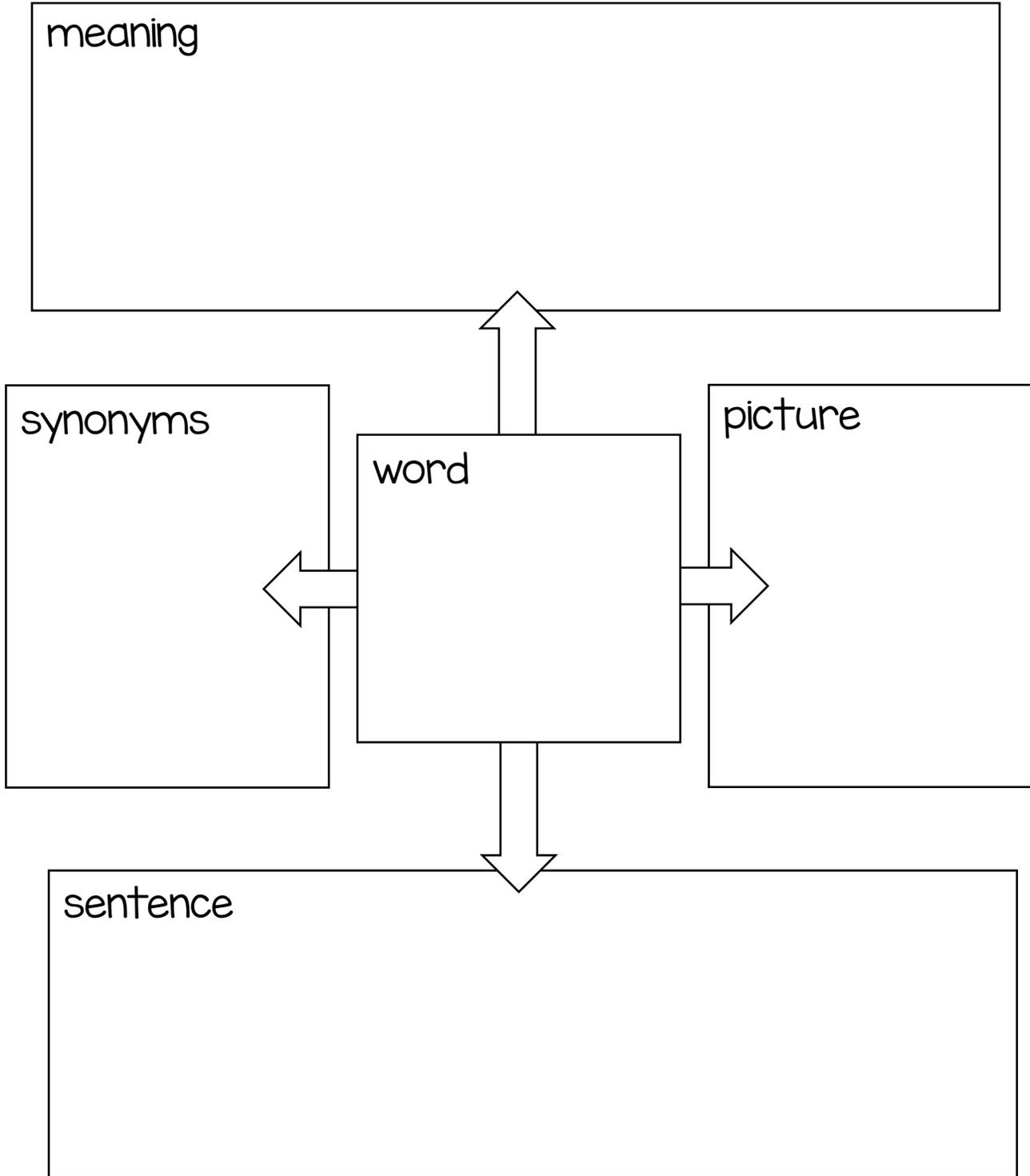


Name: _____

Word Map



extinction

the end of a species, this occurs after the last animal of a kind dies

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habitat

a place where an animal makes its home

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endangered

an animal that is at risk of extinction

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conservation

the care and protection of resources (including animals)

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population

all the people or animals that live in an area

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adaptation

when an animal changes to be able to live better in its environment

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abundant

existing in large quantities

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species

a group of plants or animals
that are similar

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decline

to go down or decrease

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probability

the chance of something
happening

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captivity

to be confined

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criteria

a measurement we use to
judge something

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Least Concern

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Near Threatened

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Vulnerable Species

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Endangered Species

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Critically Endangered

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Extinct in the Wild

Extinct

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Name: _____

SKETCH NOTES

Use words and pictures to share what you have learned about each category.

Least Concern

Near Threatened

Vulnerable Species

Endangered Species

Critically Endangered

Extinct in the Wild

Extinct

Endangered Species Categories

Scientists use different categories to label the danger animals are in of becoming extinct. There are a total of seven categories that tell us about their population and the risk of extinction.

The first category is labeled animals of **least concern**. This means that the species is abundant, and scientists do not fear that it is on a path to extinction. Examples include humans, elk and the gray whale.

Next is the group of animals that are **near threatened**. Near threatened species are those that scientists believe will be in a threatened category in the future. These animals include the jaguar, plains zebra and American bison.

The next four categories include animals that are in danger of extinction at different levels. There are many requirements to fall into each category.

The first of these is known as a **vulnerable species**. A vulnerable species is not yet considered endangered. They are still protected by the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Animals that are considered vulnerable are African Elephants, giant pandas and great white sharks. There is at least a 10% chance that these animals will become extinct within 100 years.

The next group is labeled **endangered species**. They have seen a 50 to 70% decline in population. To fall in this category, there must be less than 2,500 mature animals. There is at least a 20% chance that these animals will become extinct within 20 years.

Critically endangered animals are next on the list. These animals have a population that has declined 80 to 90%. There is at least a 50% chance these animals will become extinct within 10 years. Examples of critically endangered animals are the black rhinoceros, Bornean orangutan and the addax.

Animals are next classified as **extinct in the wild**. This means they can only be found in captivity (such as zoos or nature preserves.) Animals that are considered extinct in the wild are the Socorro dove, black softshell turtle and Hawaiian crow.

The final grouping of animals are considered extinct. These animals can no longer be found in captivity or in the wild. Some animals that have gone extinct are the saber-toothed cat, woolly mammoth and West African black rhinoceros.

Why do you think vulnerable species are protected by the Endangered Species Act when these animals are not yet endangered?

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When someone says that there are less than 2,500 mature individuals, what does mature mean?

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What things can humans do to prevent an endangered animal from becoming extinct?

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Will all animals on the vulnerable species list become extinct someday?

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The black rhinoceros species is considered critically endangered. The western black rhinoceros has been declared extinct. Can you explain this?

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Why do you think scientists try to put a species that is extinct in the wild into zoos or animal sanctuaries?

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How does an animal becoming extinct impact humans?

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Name: _____

South China Tiger

Habitat

Physical features

Diet

Predators

Adaptations

Endangered species status

Name: _____

Saola

Habitat

Physical features

Diet

Predators

Adaptations

Endangered species status

Name: _____

Vaquita

Habitat

Physical features

Diet

Predators

Adaptations

Endangered species status

Name: _____

Javar Rhino

Habitat

Physical features

Diet

Predators

Adaptations

Endangered species status

Name: _____

Spix's Macaw

Habitat

Physical features

Diet

Predators

Adaptations

Endangered species status

Name: _____

habitat

physical features

diet

predators

adaptations

endangered species status

Name: _____

Rough Draft: _____

_____ is on the endangered species list. It is considered _____.

This animal lives _____
_____.

(tell about its physical features) _____

_____.

The _____ (animal's name) has to watch out for predators. Some of its predators are _____
_____.

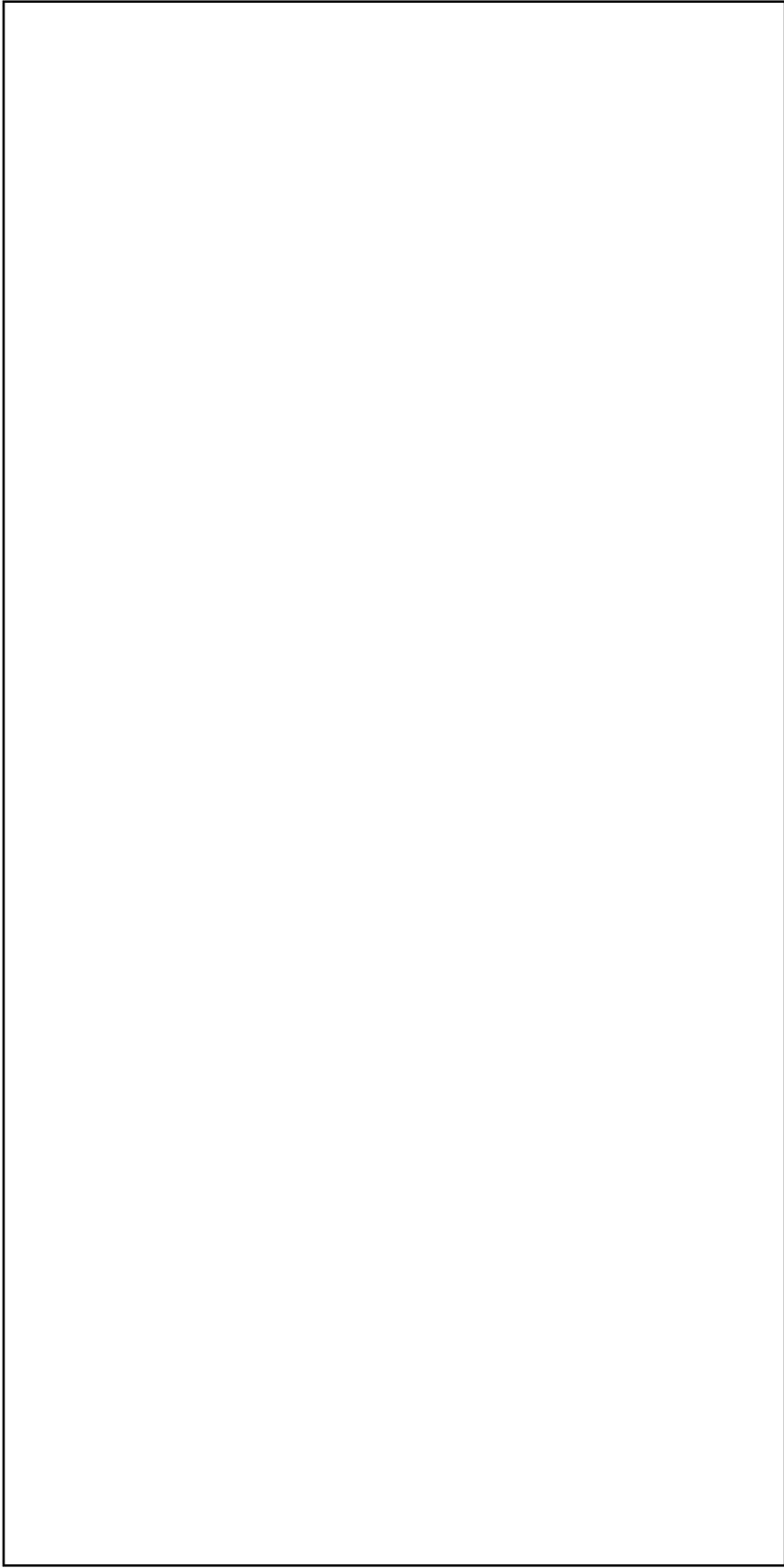
It has developed adaptations to help it survive. An example is _____

_____.

Humans can help save this animal by _____

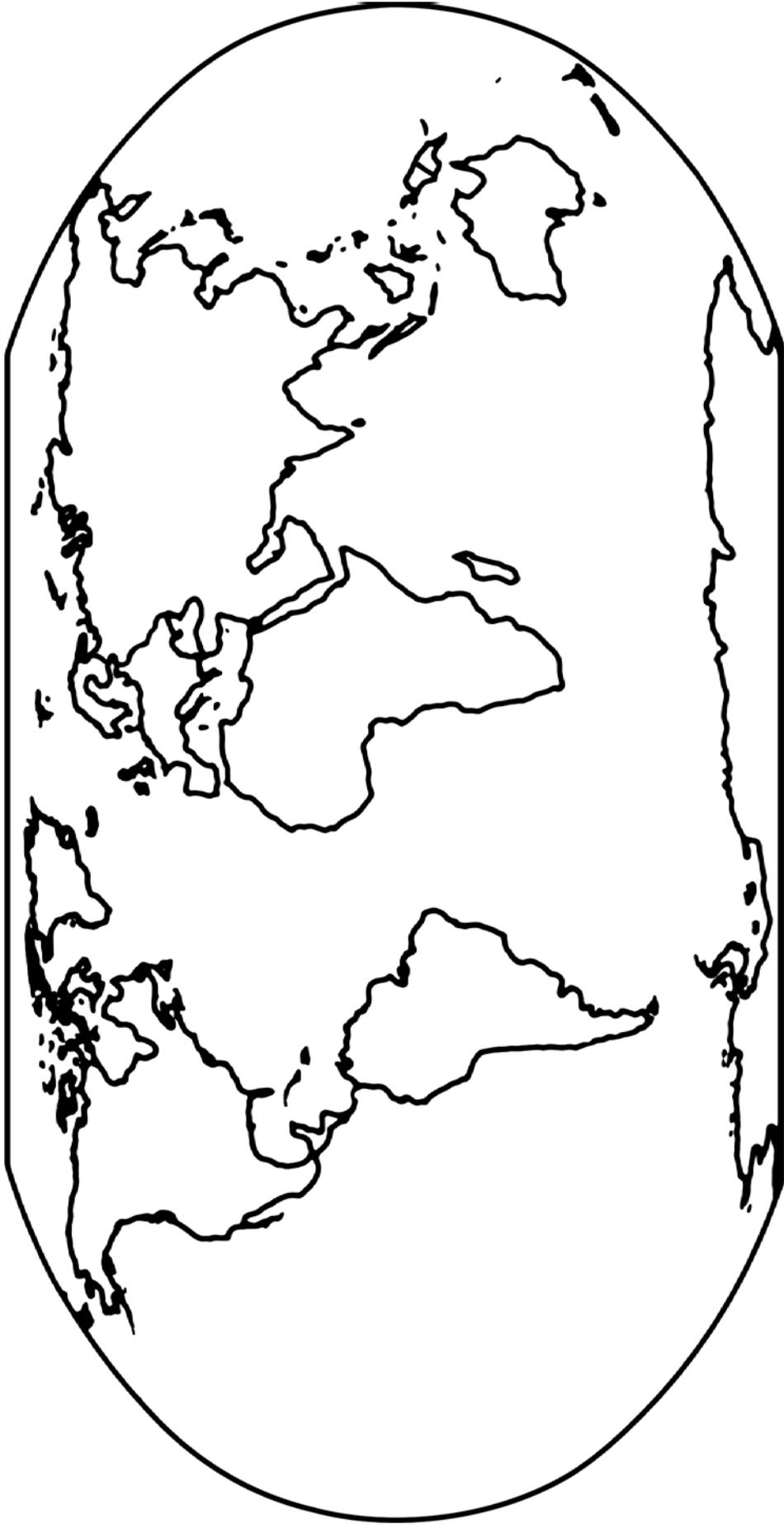
_____.

Endangered Species Around the World



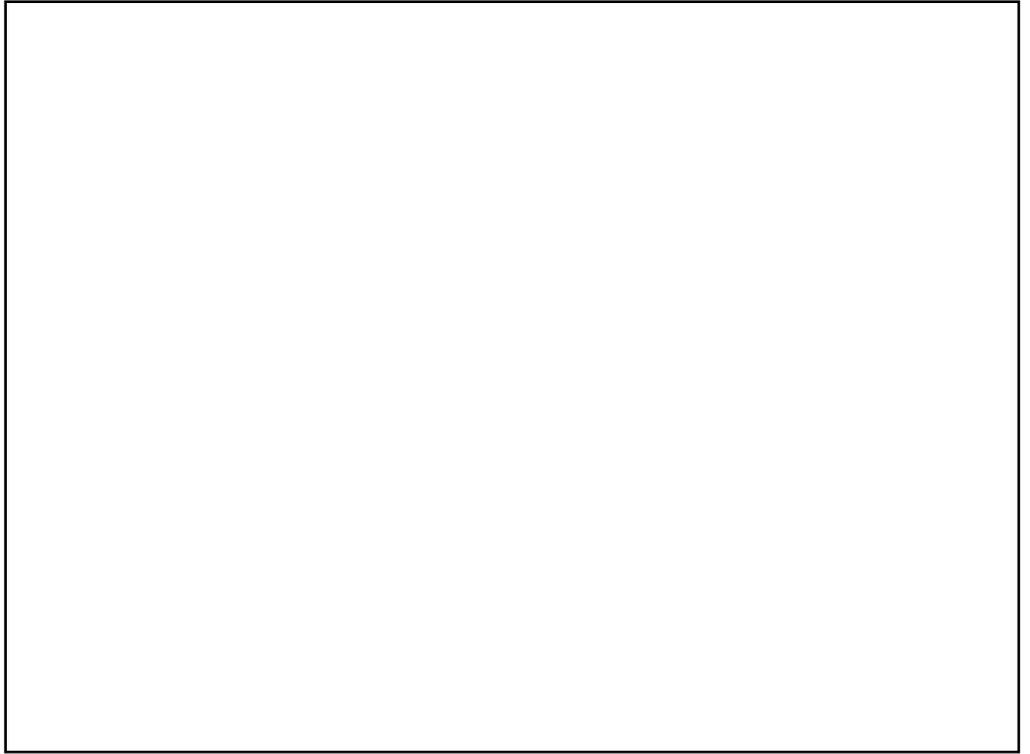
Author: _____

Where do they live?



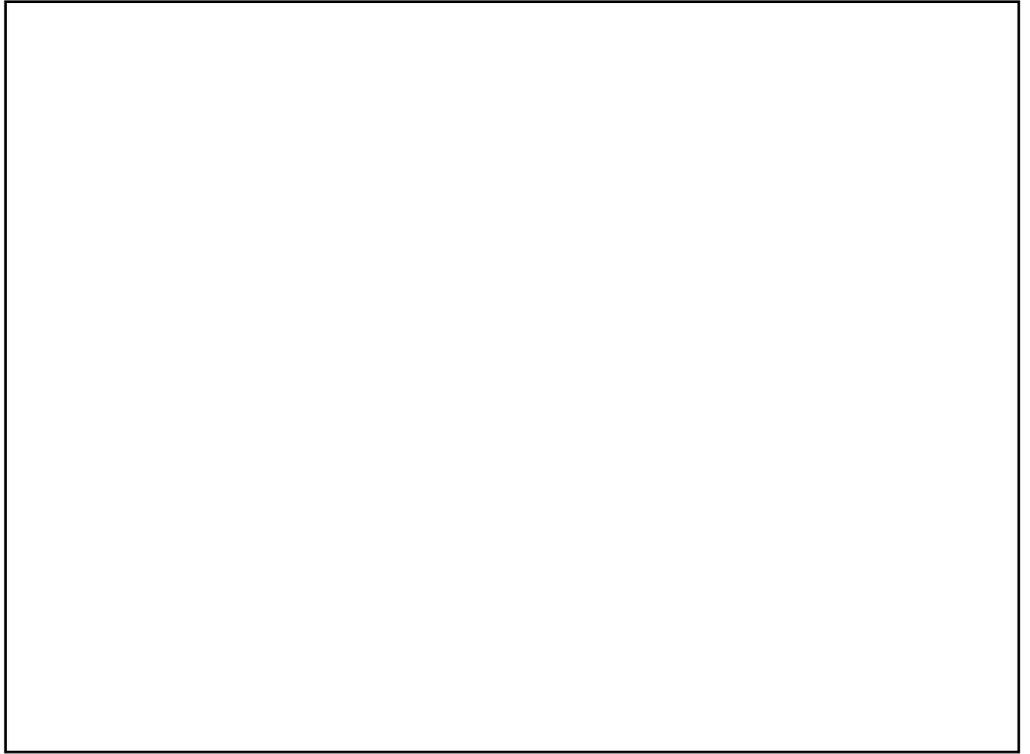
Show where each endangered species lives by labeling it on the map.

Learn about the



A series of 15 vertical lines for writing, arranged in a single column on the right side of the page.

Learn about the



A series of ten vertical lines for writing, arranged in a column on the right side of the page.

Name: _____

Saving Animals from Extinction

Think about it... What steps can you take to help save animals from extinction?
