

Lesson 3

Endangered Species

- A. Look at these photographs of some animals in Bangladesh which are either critically endangered or endangered. Now research in groups and find out the reasons of their being threatened. Discuss in the class.



- 1) Elongated Tortoise (*Indotestudo elongata*) is a critically endangered species in Bangladesh, inhabiting deciduous, mixed evergreen, and evergreen forests, especially low hills and rocky streams.



- 2) The Bengal Slow Loris (*Nycticebus bengalensis*), known as লজ্জাবতী বানর or শরমিন্দা বিলাই in Bangla is an endangered species in Bangladesh. Photography: Sabit Hasan



- 3) Phayre's Langur (*Trachypithecus phayrei*), commonly known as "চশমা পরা হনুমান," "কালো হনুমান," or "কালো বান্দর" in Bangla is classified as a Critically Endangered specie. Photography: Sabit Hasan



- 4) Red-necked Keelback (*Rhabdophis subminiatus*) (লালঘাড় ঢোঁড়া সাপ/লাল ঢোঁড়া সাপ): A Near Threatened species in Bangladesh, photographed by Sajib Biswas.



- 5) *Chirixalus doriae*, commonly known as Doria's Asian treefrog, Doria's bush frog, and Doria's tree frog, is a species of frog in the family Rhacophoridae. A Near Threatened species in Bangladesh. This image is taken from Wikipedia.



- 6) The Indian grassbird is a passerine bird in the family Pellorneidae.
Photo: internet



- 7) *Tor putitora*, the Golden Mahseer, *Putitor mahseer*, or Himalayan mahseer, is an endangered species of cyprinid fish that is found in rapid streams, riverine pools, and lakes in the Himalayan region. Photo: internet



- 8) The Asian small-clawed otter lives in riverine habitats, freshwater wetlands and mangrove swamps. It feeds on molluscs, crabs and other small aquatic animals. Photo: internet

B. Read this poem by Jayne Cortez and answer the questions that follow**Endangered Species List Blues**

A snow leopard does not know
 It's on the endangered species list
 Mr. & Mrs. Crab are not into
 destroying the world
 they are crawling to the mud flats
 to take in some rotten insects
 It's not what's up that's going down when
 you smell yourself on
 the threshold of extinction
 It's you and your portable chemical toilet
 going to hell under friendly fire
 It's you and your missile receptor
 exploding to pieces

It's not what's up that's going down
 The person who OK's biological weapons
 should not cry about the stench of
 new diseases
 The one who cuts off the trees
 so the orangutans can't hang
 should not wonder about ecological devastation

It's not what's up that's going down
 It's what's down that's going up
 It's not what's up that's going down
 It's what's down that's going up

C. Listen to the musical version of the poem using this QR code:

D. Answer the questions below:

- a. How does the poem show the link between human actions and environmental harm?
- b. How do the animals in the poem represent environmental problems?
- c. How does the poem criticize people's role in environmental issues?
- d. Why do you think the snow leopard and crabs are unaware of their endangered status?
- e. What is the significance of the imagery of "cutting trees" and its effect on orangutans?
- f. How does the poem portray the idea of extinction as a personal experience?
- g. Why does the poem focus on human-made environmental destruction rather than natural causes?

E. Make another list of 20 species of flora and fauna of the world which are endangered or on the brink of extinction. Write an essay on reasons behind this situation, and possible ways of solving the great problem.**F. Now read the following story taken from Yuval Noah Harari's *Unstoppable Us: How Humans Took Over the World*.**

One example of modern gatherers is the Nayaka people, who live in the jungles of southern India. When a Nayaka comes across a dangerous animal such as a tiger, snake or elephant in the jungle, the Nayaka might talk directly to the animal: 'You live in the forest, and I live in the forest too. You came here to eat, and I came here to gather roots and tubers. I didn't come to hurt you, so please don't hurt me.'

A Nayaka was once killed by a male elephant they called 'the elephant who always walks alone. People from the Indian government then came to capture the elephant, but the Nayaka refused to help the government officials. They explained that the elephant had a good reason to be violent: he used to have a very close friend, another male elephant, and the two always roamed the forest together. One day, some bad people shot the second elephant and took him away. 'The elephant who

always walks alone had been very lonely ever since and was very angry at humans. ‘How would you feel if your partner was taken away from you?’ the Nayaka asked. ‘That’s exactly how this elephant felt. The two elephants sometimes went their separate ways at night, but in the morning, they always came together again. On that terrible day, the elephant watched his buddy fall to the ground. If two creatures are always together and then you shoot one, how’s the other one going to feel?’

Scientists have invented a special word for people who believe that animals can talk and that there are spirits who live in rocks and rivers: animists.

G. Write your impression about the people who are termed as ‘animists’ in 125 words.