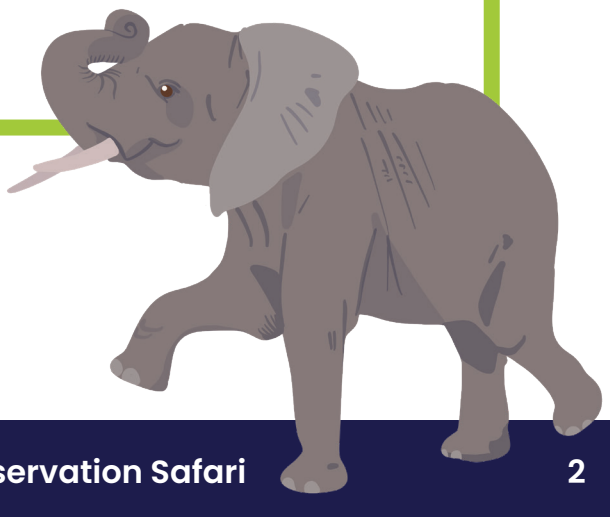
OPERATION: SAFARI CONSERVATION

Challenge Pack

Girlguiding
North West England

KNOWSLEY SAFARI

Contents



Introduction

Welcome to *Operation: Safari Conservation*! We know that wildlife protection and caring for our planet matters deeply to our members, so we've teamed up with **Knowsley Safari** to bring this challenge pack bursting with adventure, discovery and hands on learning.

This pack is creative, informative and full of fun for all sections, with suggestions throughout on how to extend activities to make them even more engaging for Guides and Rangers. As you journey through the pack, you'll explore the world of safari conservation. From animal habitats and food chains, to biodiversity and endangered species we can all play a part in protecting wildlife.
Ready to become a defender of the wild?

To earn your badge, you'll need to complete two activities from each of the two themes; Safari and Conservation. That's four in total.

A message from Knowsley Safari

At Knowsley Safari, we're dedicated to inspiring lifelong connection with wildlife and protecting the natural world through education, research and meaningful visitor experiences. Home to hundreds of animals from around the globe, we also champion native UK species and the importance of caring for habitats both near and far.

Together with Girlguiding North West England and our Learning & Discovery team, we're excited to welcome you to this special Safari Challenge Pack. Designed to follow the Girlguiding takeover weekend, this pack invites you to explore animal welfare, get creative with habitat design, and take part in conservation challenges that spotlight both global wildlife and the native species on your doorstep.

We'd really love to see what you get up to as part of the challenge. Be sure to send your pictures to northwesthq@girlguidingnwe.org.uk or connect with us on social media:

GirlguidingNorthWestEngland

girlguidingnwe

girlguiding_nwe

THEME 1 - SAFARI

Safaris give us a window into the incredible world of animals—how they live, how they survive and how they fit into the ecosystems around them. From tiny insects hiding under leaves to powerful predators roaming wide open spaces, every creature has a role to play. Understanding these animals helps us appreciate the beauty and complexity of the natural world, and reminds us why protecting it matters.

In this section, you'll step into the world of wildlife exploration. Have a go at looking at animals in your local area and identifying animals in different ways.

Brilliant birds

Birds are some of the most incredible animals on our planet. With over **11,000 species** found across every continent, even in the icy stretches of Antarctica, there's always something new to spot. From tiny garden visitors to impressive global travellers, birds come in all shapes, sizes and colours - and you don't have to go far to find them.

In this activity, you'll step into the world of birdwatching and try your hand at being a **twitcher** – someone who enjoys spotting and identifying different birds. Whether you're exploring an animal park, heading out with your unit, or simply looking around your meeting place, keep your eyes (and ears) open.

See how many species you can recognise using an identification guide or the images in **Appendix 1** of common garden birds. Why not have a competition to see who can correctly identify the most birds?

Useful equipment

- Bird Identification guides
- Binoculars

Useful websites or apps

Did you know there is an app called Merlin? This app identifies the bird song of birds around you. Why not give it a go and see if you can start identifying birds by their song?

The RSPB website also has good tools to help you identify bird species.
https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/identifying-birds

Take it further

- Join the RSBP big garden birdwatch in January
- Many birds are migratory, which means they can travel thousands of miles to winter or nest in different places. Are any of the birds you see global fliers?
- Keep a log of the birds you spot; when and where. You can continue this into the future too, if you enjoy it.

Safari guide spotlight

In this activity, you will take on the role of a zookeeper safari guide and learn how to share important information about an animal, just like a real safari guide. Safari guides must understand the animals they work with, including what they eat, where they live in the wild and how they survive. They also need to explain this information clearly to visitors.

Your task is to research an animal and then give a short presentation to your unit, just like a zoo talk.

For Guides and Rangers

Follow these steps

1. **Choose an animal you want to learn about.**
   You can pick one you've seen at an animal park or one you're interested in.

2. **Research your animal using**
   - Signs and information boards at an animal park
   - Books in your unit or at the library
   - Websites

3. **Collect key facts about your animal.** Make sure you find out
   - Where they are found
   - One special adaptation or feature (for example, giraffes have *ossicones* to protect their head)
   - What they eat
   - Whether they are a predator, prey, or both
   - Their IUCN Red List classification
   - Any threats they face in the wild

4. **Prepare your presentation**
   Think about how a zookeeper would explain things to visitors. Keep it clear, interesting and easy to understand.

5. **Share your talk with your unit**
   Try to speak confidently and include the key facts you discovered.

For Rainbows and Brownies:

Bring a soft toy and tell the group:
- What animal it is
- Where it comes from
- What it eats
- One fun or special fact

Safari spotter

When you head out on safari, you never know which amazing animals you might spot. You have to stay alert, look carefully and work out which animals you're seeing. Use our safari spotter sheet below and see how many creatures you can find.

You can try this activity during a visit to any animal park. If you're not able to visit an animal collection, you can still join in by thinking about each cvategory on the sheet and acting out an animal that fits. How many can your unit guess?

OPERATION: SAFARI CONSERVATION

WALKING SAFARI TASK

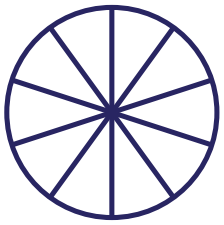
Date/time:

Location:

Weather: 

Habitat type:

Green space
(% estimate shade the segments - 1 segment = 10%)



Plants seen: (draw or name, use ID chart/app)

Animals seen: (or evidence of - footprints, feathers, poo, sound)

Issues facing plants/animals in the area:

See **Appendix 2** for full size printable version.

Design an animal zoo habitat

For Rainbows and Brownies

Animals in zoos and safaris need lots of different things to stay healthy and behave naturally. Every species has its own unique needs, and modern zoos now design habitats for animal welfare, not just visitor viewing.

To design a great habitat, we start by thinking about where an animal lives in the wild. Do they come from a desert, rainforest or icy tundra? Are they a carnivore or a herbivore? Do they climb, swim, dig or fly?

Equipment

- Paper
- Pencil
- Colouring pens or pencils

Follow these steps:

1. **Explore different animals and their needs**

   Chat with your unit about how different animals live in the wild. For example, a polar bear and a giraffe come from very different habitats and need very different things.

2. **Choose an animal and research its needs using the list below.**

   - Shelter – trees, dens, burrows, caves
   - Climate – hot, cold, dry, humid
   - Food – browse, shrubs, meat, insects
   - Water – drinking water, swimming areas
   - Activity patterns – day or night
   - Substrate – sand, grass, rock, soil, climbing structures
   - Social groups – solitary or group-living
   - Foliage – trees, grass, shrubs
   - Enrichment – ways to encourage natural behaviours like digging, foraging or swimming

3. **Design the habitat**

   Once you understand their animal's needs, draw a suitable habitat that helps the animal behave naturally and stay healthy.

Create a dream ecosystem

For Guides and Rangers

1. Create your dream habitat

Imagine a complete new environment. It can be realistic, fantasical or a mix of both, such as:

- A floating island in the sky
- A deep-sea cavern
- A neon rainforest
- A desert with glowing plants

Draw the landscape first: climate, terrain, water sources, plants, weather patterns, anything that shapes life there.

2. Populate it with life

Now choose the animals (real or invented) that live in this habitat.
Think about:

- What adaptations the animals need to survive
- How big or small they are
- Whether they live in groups or alone
- What they eat

Add these animals into the drawing.

3. The balance challenge

Once the ecosystem is drawn, introduce the challenge: Can your ecosystem survive long-term?
Check whether the following has been included:

- Producers (plants, algae, fungi-like organisms)
- Herbivores
- Carnivores/omnivores
- Decomposers (worms, insects, bacteria-like creatures)
- A water source
- Shelter
- A working food chain

4. Share and reflect

Talk through the ecosystem:

- What makes it unique?
- How do the animals depend on each other?
- What would happen if one species disappeared?
- What was the hardest part of keeping it balanced?

Walking safari

Going on a walking safari is all about slowing down, looking closely and discovering the wildlife around you. When you explore on foot, you notice things you might otherwise miss — tracks on the ground, rustling in the bushes, birds calling overhead or tiny creatures hiding in the grass. Every step gives you a new chance to spot something exciting.

In this activity, you'll take on the role of a walking safari explorer. Walking around your local area, your mission is to stay alert and use your senses to spot as many signs of wildlife as you can.

Make sure you keep a record of what you see using the template below.

OPERATION: SAFARI CONSERVATION

WALKING SAFARI TASK

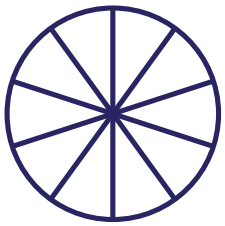
Date/time:

Location:

Weather: 

Habitat type:

Green space
(% estimate shade the segments - 1 segment = 10%)



Plants seen: (draw or name, use ID chart/app)

Animals seen: (or evidence of - footprints, feathers, poo, sound)

Issues facing plants/animals in the area:

See **Appendix 3** for full size printable version.

Zookeeper for a day

Zookeepers are some of the busiest people you'll ever meet. From the moment they arrive in the morning, their day is packed with important jobs; preparing food, cleaning enclosures, checking on animal health, giving talks to visitors, supporting conservation work and responding to anything unexpected that might happen. With so many animals to care for and so many tasks to juggle, zookeepers have to be brilliant at planning their time.

In this activity, you'll step into the shoes of a zookeeper and decide how they should organise their day. You'll look at a list of tasks, think about what needs to happen first, and choose which jobs are the most important. Some tasks might take longer than others, some might be urgent, and some might need to be done at a specific time. It's up to you to work out the best schedule.

Watch out – your leader may have some unexpected twists to add to your day!

1. Select either the ungulate or carnivore keeper responsibilities and organise them into the timeslots.
2. Leaders mix it up by adding an unexpected twist to each group and see how they schedule it into their day.

Use the printable planner provided in **Appendix 4.**

Ungulate keeper (giraffe)

- Conduct protected contact training (lift hoof, open mouth) - **20 minutes**
- Put food inside house - **15 minutes**
- Clean outside paddock - **15 minutes**
- Gather feed, enrichment and cleaning tools - **20 minutes**
- Check fencing and locks for safety - **5 minutes**
- Refresh water - **10 minutes**
- Clean and organise tools - **7 minutes**
- Spot-clean indoor bedding - **15 minutes**
- Administer medication - **5 minutes**
- Record observations in health/behaviour log - **8 minutes**
- Update keeper log - **10 minutes**
- Observe animals, looking for injuries or abnormal behaviour - **15 minutes**
- Offer enrichment - **5 minutes**
- Put the giraffes inside - **5 minutes**
- Check daily keeper log for updates (health notes, behaviours, maintenance issues) - **10 minutes**
- Head count of animals- **2 minutes**
- Hose and disinfect where necessary - **5 minutes**
- Allow giraffes access outside - **3 minutes**

Zookeeper for a day continued...

Carnivore keeper (tiger)

- Conduct protected contact training (lift paw, open mouth) - **20 minutes**
- Weigh and prepare meat - **10 minutes**
- Clean outside; remove bones, poo and any leftover food - **15 minutes**
- Gather meat diet portion, enrichment and cleaning tools - **20 minutes**
- Check fencing and locks for safety - **5 minutes**
- Refresh water - **10minutes**
- Clean and organise tools and check locks - **5 minutes**
- Spot clean indoor bedding - **15 minutes**
- Observe feeding (normal appetite, chewing, swallowing) - **10 minutes**
- Check perimeter fencing, hot wires, gates, pools and enrichment structure - **10 minutes**
- Log any observations - **5 minutes**
- Do welfare check; body condition, gait, breathing, demeanor - **15 minutes**
- Set up enrichment (logs, scents) - **5 minutes**
- Secure tiger in holding area or den - **10 minutes**
- Check daily keeper log for updates (health notes, behaviours, maintenance issues) -**10 minutes**
- Visually confirm tiger location before entering service area - **5 minutes**
- Record diet intake, behaviours, training process in log - **15 minutes**
- Hide portions of food to encourage natural hunting - **10 minutes**
- Hose and disinfect where necessary - **5 minutes**
- Prep for midday routines - **10 minutes**
- Allow tigers into main habitat - **5 minutes**
- Review safety protocols - **5 minutes**
- Take behavioural notes - **5 minutes**

Unexpected twists

- You completely forgot about a group of school children coming and you have to give them a keeper talk - **20 minutes**
- The fencing is completely broken and needs fixing immediately - **15 minutes**
- The animal has a bad cut and you need to call the vet - **20 minutes**
- The locks aren't working and you need to call maintenance - **20 minutes**
- The animal refuses to go outside - **20 minutes**
- Delayed food delivery - **15 minutes**
- Vet requesting immediate inspection of paw/hoof - **20 minutes**

Zookeeper for a day! continued...

Planner

Start time 06.30am, end time 10.00am

Arrival and prep

Morning checks

Feeding and water checks

Habitat cleaning

Training and health care

Preparing outdoor habitat

Release into habitat/wrap up morning tasks

See **Appendix 4** for full size printable version.

Animal movers

Animals move in all sorts of amazing ways. Some leap, some slither, some stomp and some swoop. Every movement helps them survive— whether they're escaping danger, finding food or exploring their habitat. By copying how animals move, we can learn more about how they live and have lots of fun at the same time.

In this activity, you'll become different animals and try out the ways they move. You'll wiggle like worms, hop like frogs, prowl like big cats and flap like birds. Get ready to use your imagination, stretch your body and explore the wild world of animal movement.

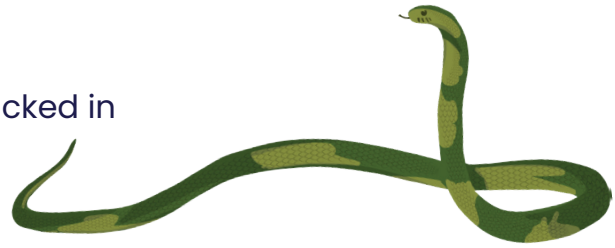
You will need a safe space to move around

1. **Warm up - Move like me**

Choose an animal and show the movement. Everyone copies.

Examples:

- **Elephant** – big stomping steps
- **Rabbit** – small quick hops
- **Snake** – slithering on the floor
- **Bird** - flapping arms like wings
- **Frog** - big jumps
- **Cheetah** - fast running on the spot
- **Giraffe** - tall, slow steps
- **Crab** - sideways scuttle
- **Kangaroo** - bouncing with hands tucked in
- **Butterfly** - gentle fluttering



2. **Safari trail**

Create an imaginary safari journey. The leader tells a simple story and the group changes movements as the animals appear.

Example: *"You're walking through the tall grass… oh! A cheetah! Run like a cheetah… now you reach a river - hop like a frog… look up! Birds overhead - flap your wings…"*

Keep it playful and imaginative.

3. **Cool down - slow creatures**

Finish with calm animal movements:

- **Tortoise** - slow steps
- **Sloth** - gentle stretching
- **Starfish** - lie still and breathe

THEME 2 - CONSERVATION

Conservation is all about protecting the natural world so that wildlife, habitats and ecosystems can thrive for generations to come. From the tiniest insects to the largest mammals - every living thing plays an important role in keeping our planet healthy. But with climate change, pollution and habitat loss affecting animals across the globe, conservation has never been more important.

In this section, you'll explore what conservation really means and discover the many ways people - scientists, zookeepers, park rangers and even young activists - are working to protect our world. You'll learn how small actions can make a big difference, how to spot threats to wildlife, and how you can take positive steps to help nature in your own community.

Whether you're investigating endangered species, learning about sustainable choices or taking part in hands on activities, this section will help you understand how powerful your voice and actions can be. Conservation starts with curiosity. It grows with knowledge and becomes real through the choices we make every day.

How threatened are these animals?

All around the world, scientists work hard to understand how wildlife is coping in a changing environment. One of the most important tools they use is the **IUCN Red List**, - a global system that sorts animals into categories, based on how at risk they are of becoming extinct. From species that are doing well to those facing serious threats, the Red List helps conservationists decide where help is needed most.

In this activity, you will explore which animals are in each category. Do any surprise you? If you visit animal parks, some will have the IUCN Red List symbol on the signage. If you aren't able to visit an animal park, can you match the animals on the list below to their category?

Stretch your knowledge: for animal populations that are declining, can you find out why?

Example animals list and their Red List categories:

Capybara (LC), Jaguar (Near Threatened), Binturong (VU), Giant Otter (Endangered), Black crested Gibbon (Critically Endangered), Pere Davids Deer (Extinct in the Wild), Tasmanian Tiger (Extinct)

Endangered species list / Conservation Status

What is the IUCN Red List?

.....

.....

Can you find a species that is listed as each of the following conservation status? *Guides/Rangers: What is the cause of the population declining?

Status	Species	Cause
EX Extinct		
EW Extinct in the Wild		
CR Critically Endangered		
EN Endangered		
VU Vulnerable		
NT Near Threatened		
LC Least Concern		

If you have any missing, do some research at home to which animals fit the Red List status and fill them in.

Group discussion: What can we do as humans to protect these animals and increase their populations?

See **Appendix 5** for full size printable version.

Conservation stories

When we talk about conservation, it's easy to focus on the challenges facing wildlife - but there are also incredible success stories happening all around the world. Species that were once on the brink of extinction are recovering and habitats are being restored. Communities, scientists and conservationists are proving that positive change is possible. Every success, big or small, shows what can happen when people work together to protect the natural world.

In this activity, you'll explore some of these inspiring conservation wins. You'll look at real examples of animals whose numbers are increasing, of habitats that have been brought back to life, and projects that are making a genuine difference. Then you'll create a comic strip to spread the word of how conservation can succeed.

1. As a leader, read out a conservation success story below. Ensure you include all of the facts. You could also ask your girls if they know of any more.
2. Plan out your story. What are the key points needed to get the message across?
3. Make a comic strip based on the conservation success story.

Beavers

A long time ago, beavers lived all across Britain. They built dams, shaped rivers and created wetlands full of life. But over hundreds of years, they were hunted until none were left. The landscape changed without them - rivers flowed faster, wetlands dried up, and many species lost their homes.

Then, something remarkable happened. People began to wonder what would happen if beavers returned. In Scotland, they were recognised as a native species in 2016 and given legal protection. England followed in 2022, making sure beavers could be safely reintroduced.

Scientists and conservationists worked together to find out what beavers could do for the environment. A five year study in Devon showed incredible results. Beaver dams slowed down rushing water, reducing flood peaks by up to 30%. Their ponds trapped sediment and pollution, making water cleaner. Wetland plants increased by more than a third, and animals like water voles, amphibians and wetland birds began to thrive again.

In Scotland, more than 1,000 beavers now live in the Tay and Forth river catchments, helped by careful relocations. Their wetlands even store more carbon than the land around them, helping fight climate change.

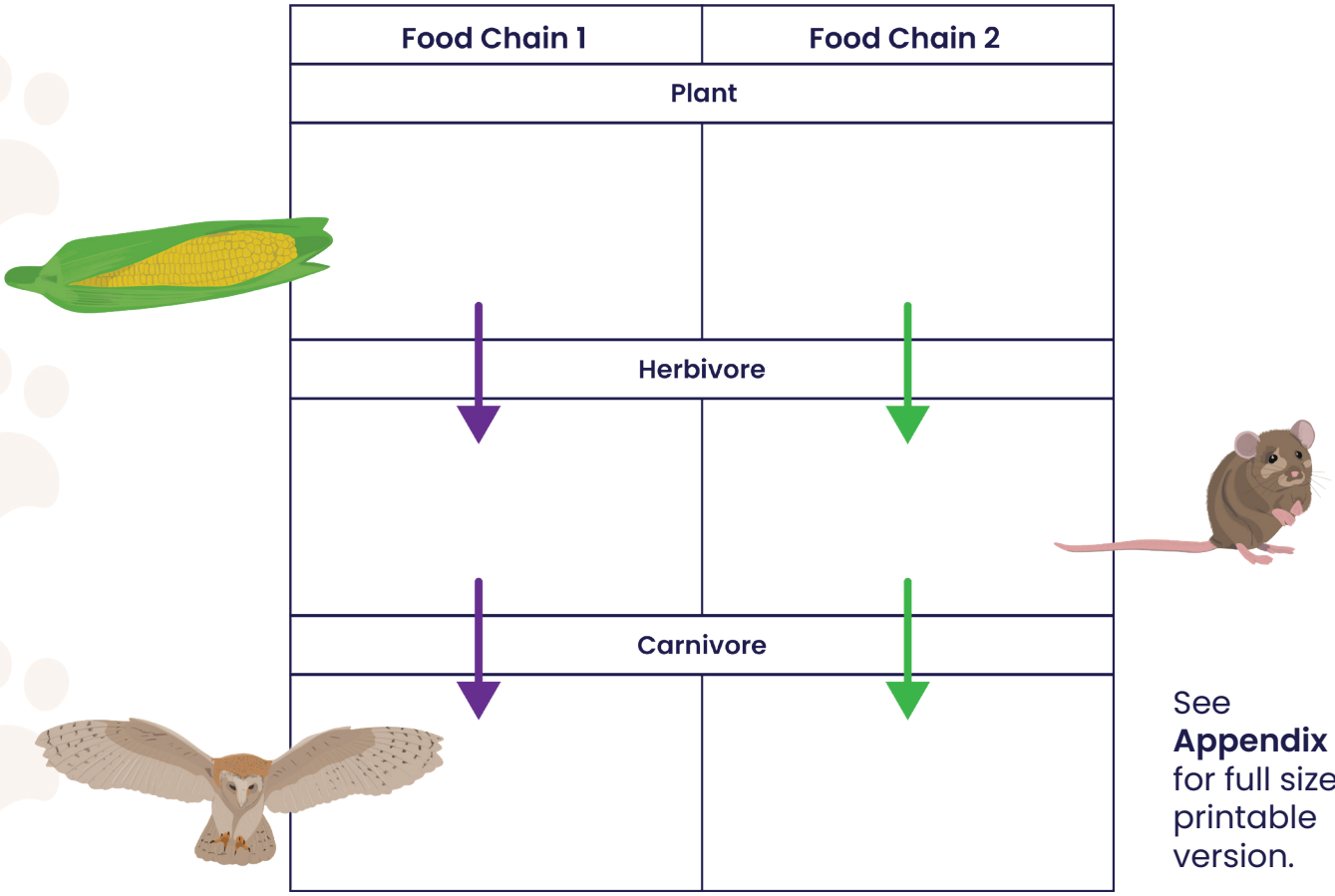
More reintroductions are planned across England and Wales. Everywhere they go, beavers are proving that nature can heal itself when given the chance. Their story shows how powerful nature based solutions can be - and how bringing back just one species can help restore whole ecosystems.

Food chains

Every living thing on Earth is connected, and one of the best ways to see those connections is through a food chain. A food chain shows who eats what in an ecosystem - from tiny plants soaking up sunlight, to the animals that graze on them, to the predators that hunt for their next meal. Each link depends on the one before it. If one part changes, the whole chain can be affected.

In this activity, you'll explore how food chains work and why they are so important for keeping ecosystems healthy. You'll look at different habitats, and identify producers, consumers and predators. You will build your own food chains to show how energy moves through the natural world. You might even discover surprising connections between species you didn't expect.

Complete the activity below using animals you know, or animals you see on a visit to an animal park. Can you make them all link? Think about where the animals are from as well. Would they come from the same habitat?



See **Appendix 6** for full size printable version.

Match the definitions with their meaning

- Herbivore
- Carnivore
- Omnivore

- Eats other animals
- Eats plants and other animals
- Eats plants

Discussion Task

What would happen to the food chain or environment if one animal went extinct?

The food chain game

Every food chain shows how energy moves through nature, from one living thing to another. Some animals are predators, some are prey, and some help recycle nutrients back into the ecosystem. In this game, you'll explore a simple food chain by becoming one of three creatures: a **worm**, a **bird**, or a **fox**.

Each creature has an important role. **Birds eat worms, foxes hunt birds.** When a fox dies, **worms help break it down as decomposers**, returning nutrients to the soil so new plants can grow. It's a cycle that keeps the whole ecosystem healthy.

By acting out these animals and seeing who wins each round, you'll discover how food chains connect living things—and how even the smallest creature, like a worm, plays a vital part in keeping nature going.

You will play a variation on the popular game rock, paper, scissors.

Planning the game

Divide your space into two areas - one for each team. Mark a clear line in the middle where the teams will face each other.

Explaining the rules

Tell everyone that there are three creatures in this game: worm, bird and fox.

- **Worm** - wiggle low to the ground
- **Bird** - flap your arms like wings and chirp
- **Fox** - crouch, show your paws and give a playful growl

Explain that each creature beats another.

- Bird eats Worm
- Fox eats Bird
- Worm eats Fox (after it has died, decomposition)

Playing the game

1. Split into two teams
2. Teams quietly decide which creature they'll be - worm, bird or fox. They can whisper or discretely act it out, making sure the other team can't see
3. When both teams have chosen, they return to the line and get ready
4. The activity leader counts down from three
5. On "go", everyone shows their chosen creature using the correct actions, without crossing the line
6. Keep acting until the leader announces the winner of the round
7. The winning team earns one point
8. Play as many rounds as you like.

Small changes, big difference

Conservation isn't just about protecting animals, it's also about looking after the places they live and the planet we all share. Every small action we take - from saving water to fixing something instead of throwing it away - helps keep habitats healthy and reduces the pressure on the environment. When lots of people make small changes, they add up to a big difference.

In this activity, you'll explore simple, everyday ways to care for nature that anyone can do. You'll think about how our choices - like recycling, turning off lights, planting flowers or using reusable items - help protect wildlife and keep ecosystems thriving. These actions might seem small, but they help create cleaner, safer habitats for every living thing.

Using the checklist, track the actions you take to help conserve our planet.

Checklist for helping save wildlife & habitats

There are many things we can do to help protect wild habitats for wildlife to live safely. Tick the boxes when you achieve each thing. Write some of your own ideas in the empty spaces.

My goals	Tick when achieved	
Meat free meal	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
Turned off the lights	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
Saved water	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
Recycled my rubbish	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
Used a reusable water bottle	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
Repair a broken item	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
Plant bee friendly flowers	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
.....	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
.....	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
.....	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	

By changing how we live we can make small changes to protect the wider environment and its plants and animals. Keep doing these small changes - and get your friends and family on board too!

See **Appendix 7** for full size printable version.

Become a local conservation champion

Conservation isn't only about protecting rare or exotic animals in far off places. The wildlife living right on our doorstep needs help too. Many local species are struggling because their habitats are changing and their food sources are disappearing. But people simply don't realise they're in trouble. When we learn about these species and take action, we can make a real difference to the nature around us.

In this activity, you'll choose a local species that needs support and investigate what's putting it at risk. You'll think about the habitat it depends on, the challenges it faces and the people or organisations who could help protect it. Then you'll design your own small conservation project - something practical, achievable and rooted in your community.

Whether you decide to raise awareness, improve a habitat, support a local charity or take part in hands on volunteering, your actions will help create a safer, healthier environment for wildlife. Conservation starts with understanding, grows through teamwork and becomes powerful when we take action close to home.

Equipment

- Paper or a notebook
- Pens or pencils
- Access to the internet or local wildlife information (optional)
- Any materials needed for your chosen conservation action

1. Chose your species

Pick a species that lives in your local area and is facing challenges. It could be a plant, insect, bird, mammal, amphibian or even a habitat building species like moss or fungi. Think about:

- Which species have you seen less often?
- Which ones are known to be declining locally?
- Which habitats near you are changing?

2. Investigate the problem

Find out why your chosen species is struggling. Consider:

- What habitat does it need?
- What threats is it facing (pollution, habitat loss, climate change, predators, human activity)?
- How do these threats affect its survival?

Write down your findings in simple notes.

Become a local conservation champion continued...

3. Who can help?

Conservation works best when people get involved. Think about:

- Who needs to know about this species?
- Which groups or organisations could help (local councils, nature reserves, charities, schools, community groups)?
- What role could you or your unit play?

4. Design your conservation project

Create a small, realistic project that could help your species. Your project could include:

- Raising awareness with posters or social media
- Fundraising for a local wildlife charity
- Creating or improving habitat (ponds, wildflower patches, bug hotels, nest boxes)
- Volunteering at a local nature reserve
- Running a mini campaign to reduce a threat (litter, pollution, disturbance)

5. Take action

Carry out one practical part of your project. This could be:

- Planting flowers
- Building a habitat
- Sharing your awareness poster
- Donating funds
- Helping at a local conservation site

Even small changes make a difference.

6. Reflect and share

Think about what you learned:

- What surprised you?
- How did your action help?
- What could you do next?

Share your project with your unit, friends or family to inspire others to protect local wildlife.

Super surveys

Every habitat has a story to tell, and one of the best ways to uncover it is through a wildlife survey. Surveys help us understand which plants and animals live in an area, how healthy the habitat is, and whether conservation efforts are working. By taking a closer look at even a tiny patch of ground - you can discover patterns, spot surprises and learn how different species rely on each other.

In this activity, you'll become a nature detective - choosing a sample area, recording what you find and comparing your results with others. Whether you're a Rainbow spotting ladybirds or a Ranger identifying butterfly species, your observations help build a picture of the world around you.

Equipment

- A hula hoop or string to mark out a sample area
- Paper or a recording sheet
- Pencil or pen
- Optional: magnifying glass
- Optional: ID guides or apps such as iNaturalist, iRecord or Seek

1. **Choose your survey spot** - Head outside and pick an area you'd like to investigate. It could be a patch of grass, a corner of a field, a wildflower area or even a small garden space.
2. **Mark your sample area** - Place a hula hoop on the ground or create a square using string. This is your survey zone. Everything you record must be inside this space.
3. **Look closely** Spend a few minutes observing your area. Look on the ground, on leaves, under stones and in the air above your sample. Move slowly so you don't disturb anything.
4. **Record what you find** - Write down or sketch the plants and animals you can see.
    - **Rainbows & Brownies**: Focus on spotting groups such as ladybirds, butterflies, bees, beetles, worms or birds.
    - **Guides & Rangers**: Try identifying species - for example, the difference between a brimstone and a peacock butterfly.
5. **Compare your results** - If others are surveying different areas, compare what you found.
    - Did one area have more insects?
    - Were there more butterflies where there were more wildflowers?
    - Did shaded areas have different species than sunny areas?

Stretch your knowledge:

- Use an ID app to confirm your findings or upload your sightings to help real conservation projects.
- Try repeating the survey at a different time of day or in a different season to see how things change.

Appendix 1 - Brilliant birds

1

2

3

4

5

6

1. Blackbird 2. Collared Dove 3. Magpie 4. Robin 5. Sparrow 6. Starling

Appendix 2 - Safari spotter

Operation: Safari Conservation – Safari Spotter

Task: Throughout the day learn a little about the animals you find to tick them off your Safari Spotter sheet.
- Rainbows: tick if seen
- Brownies/Guides/Rangers: fill in the animals' species name

Can you find something to fit each category?

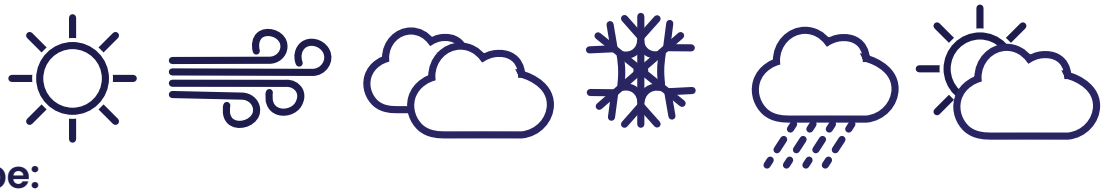
A herbivore 	Has wings	Lives in water	A zookeeper
Climbing	Hiding	Looks dangerous	Looks cute but is dangerous 
Eating	A baby	Noisy 	A carnivore
Has a long nose 	A herd animal	An animal with a horn	Running fast

OPERATION: SAFARI CONSERVATION

WALKING SAFARI TASK

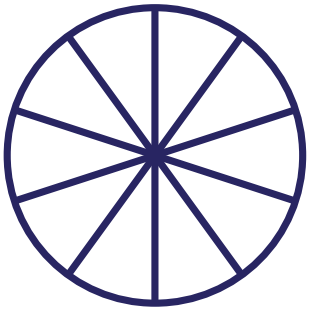
Date/time:

Location:

Weather: 

Habitat type:

Green space
(% estimate shade the segments - 1 segment = 10%)



Plants seen: (draw or name, use ID chart/app)

Animals seen: (or evidence of - footprints, feathers, poo, sound)

Issues facing plants/animals in the area:

Appendix 4 - Zookeeper for a day

Planner

Start time 06.30am, end time 10.00am

Arrival and prep

Morning checks

Feeding and water checks

Habitat cleaning

Training and health care

Preparing outdoor habitat

Release into habitat/wrap up morning tasks

Appendix 5 - How threatened are these animals?

Endangered species list / Conservation Status

What is the IUCN Red List?

.....

.....

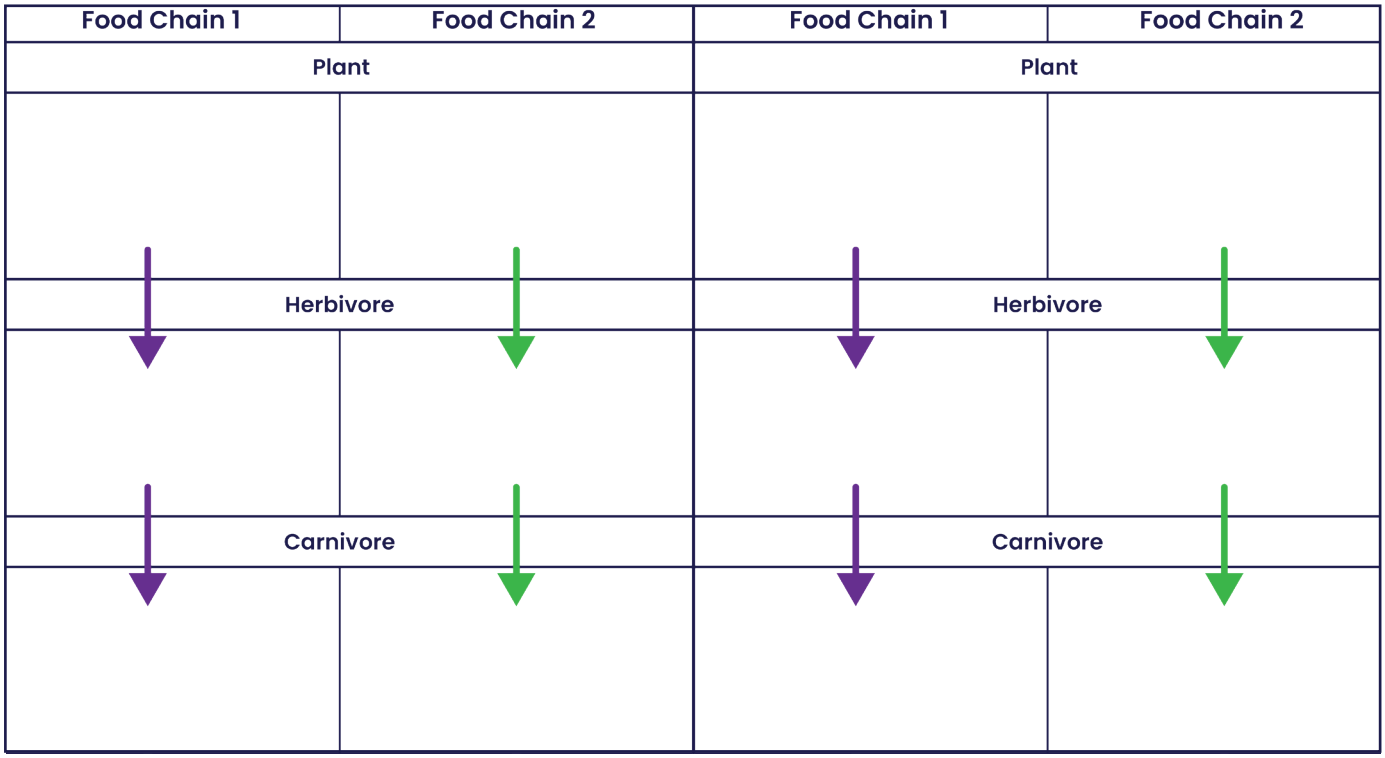
Can you find a species that is listed as each of the following conservation status? *Guides/Rangers: What is the cause of the population declining?

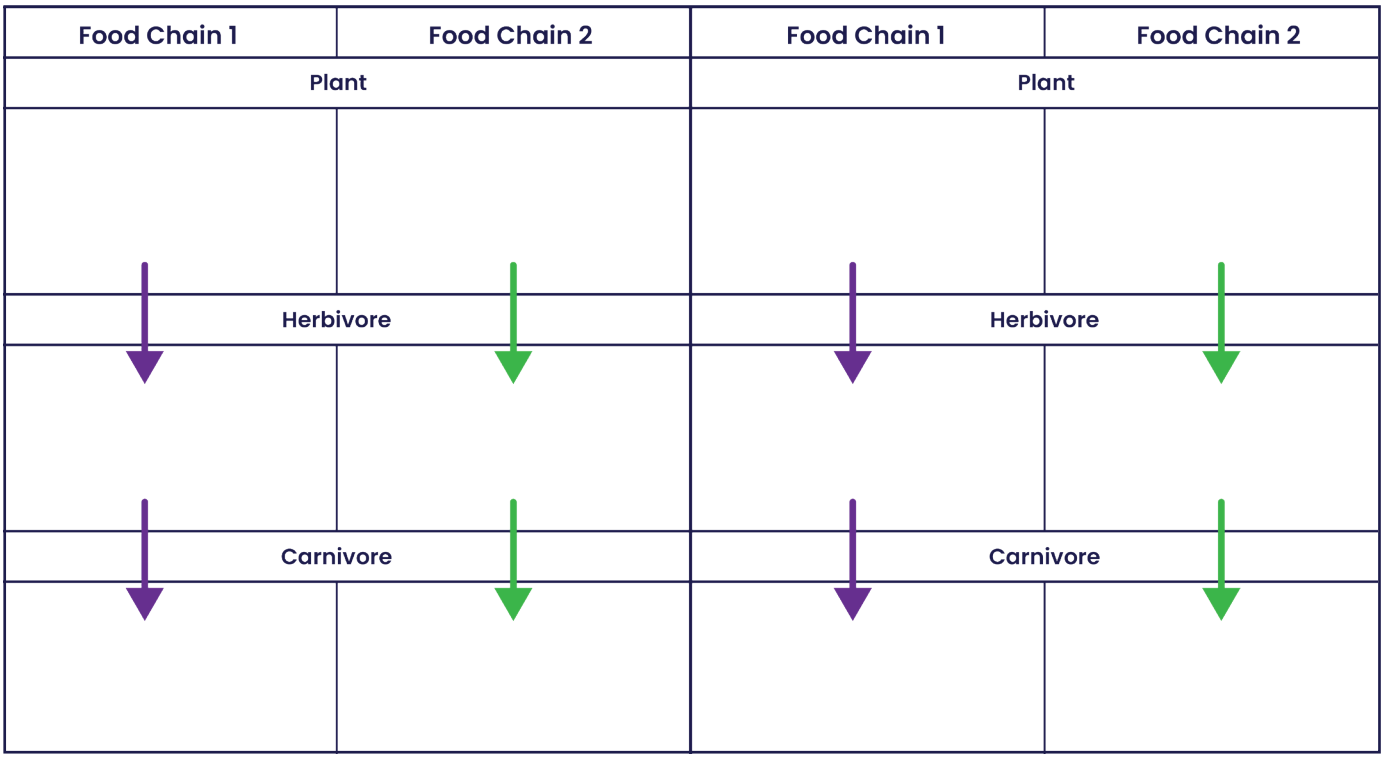
Status	Species	Cause
EX Extinct		
EW Extinct in the Wild		
CR Critically Endangered		
EN Endangered		
VU Vulnerable		
NT Near Threatened		
LC Least Concern		

If you have any missing, do some research at home to which animals fit the Red List status and fill them in.

Group discussion: What can we do as humans to protect these animals and increase their populations?

Appendix 6 - Food chains

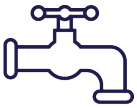
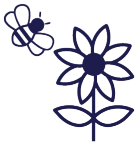




Appendix 7 - Small changes, big difference

Checklist for helping save wildlife & habitats

There are many things we can do to help protect wild habitats for wildlife to live safely. Tick the boxes when you achieve each thing. Write some of your own ideas in the empty spaces.

My goals	Tick when achieved	
Meat free meal	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
Turned off the lights	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
Saved water	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
Recycled my rubbish	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
Used a reusable water bottle	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
Repair a broken item	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
Plant bee friendly flowers	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
.....	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
.....	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
.....	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	

By changing how we live we can make small changes to protect the wider environment and its plants and animals. Keep doing these small changes - and get your friends and family on board too!