

# Endangered Species

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Pages 23-24 on:

<http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/docs/accountability/testing/releasedforms/grade7readingreleased.pdf>

## Endangered Species

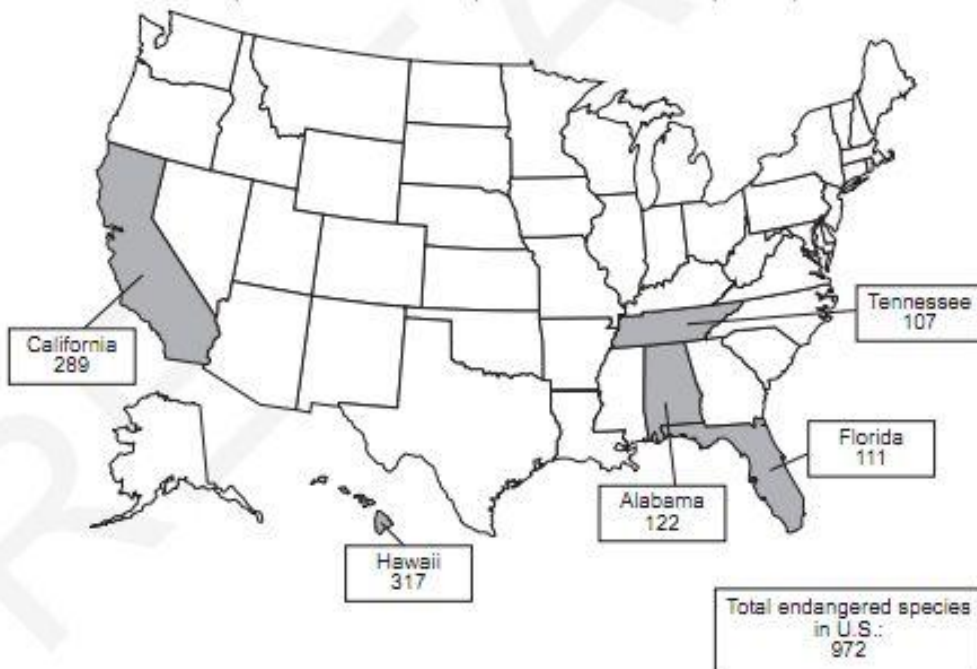
Thousands of the world's plant and animal species are currently in danger of becoming extinct—not from the effects of natural forces, but from the harmful actions of humans—their destruction of natural habitats, pollution, hunting, over-fishing, introduction of alien species into various environments, and so on.

In 1973, the U.S. Congress enacted the Endangered Species Act, which was intended to protect and restore endangered and threatened populations of plants and animals, whose survival was in jeopardy. The bald eagle, peregrine falcon, California sea otter, and black-footed ferret are among

the species that the law has helped to save from extinction. Yet, despite strong public support for this tighter control, loggers and other businesses that are threatened by its provisions continue to try to weaken its protections.

As of August 2001, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had listed 972 plant and animal species in the country as endangered and 272 other species as threatened. There were a total of 1,489 species endangered throughout the world in 2001. Many additional species, including numerous migratory birds, are in serious decline.

**Top 5 States in Endangered Species, 2001**  
(Total number of all plants and animal species)



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(Questions following the map page.  
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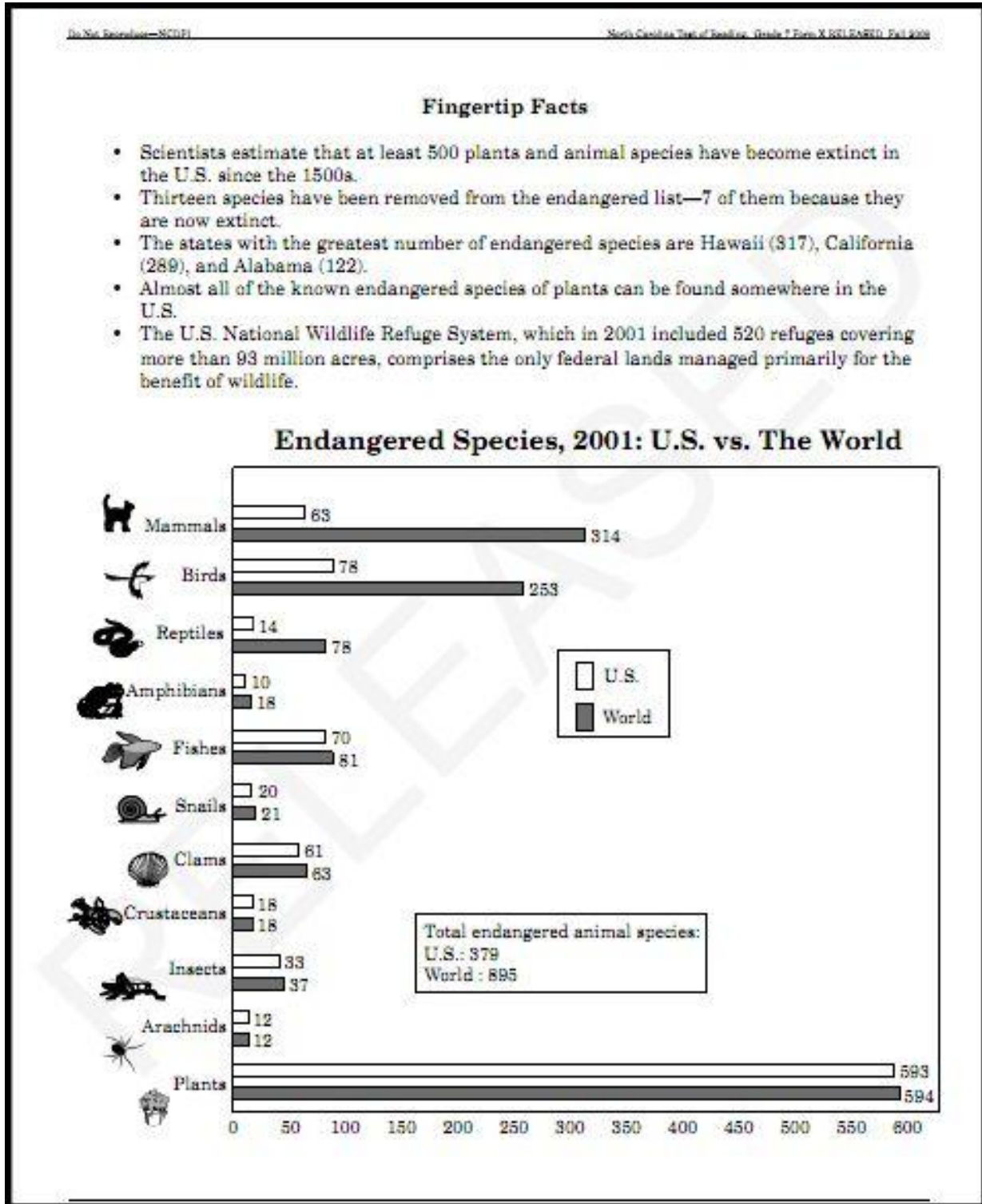
1. What is the main idea of the selection?
  - A. All of the endangered species are found in the United States.
  - B. The United States has more endangered species than any other country.
  - C. The endangerment of species in the United States is a growing problem.
  - D. The United States created the Endangered Species Act to protect the animals of the world.
2. Why do some businesses ***most likely*** try to weaken the protection of the Endangered Species Act?
  - A. It prevents the use of federal lands.
  - B. It makes logging activities difficult.
  - C. It restricts their ability to carry on profitable activities.
  - D. It turns the general public against them.

3. According to the map of the United States, which state has the ***most*** endangered species?
  - A. Alabama
  - B. California
  - C. Florida
  - D. Hawaii
4. Based on the selection, how are endangered plants different from endangered animals?
  - A. Almost all of the endangered animals are mammals.
  - B. Almost all of the endangered plants can be found in the United States.
  - C. The endangered plants have been recently discovered.
  - D. The endangered animals get most of the public support.

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Project from page 24:

<http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/docs/accountability/testing/releasedforms/grade7readingreleased.pdf>



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**(Questions to follow Fingertip Facts and Endangered Species Bar Graph.)**

5. Based on the bar graph, which statement is true?

- A. The world is losing insects at a very high rate.
- B. The United States has very few endangered plants.
- C. The United States is home to less than half of the endangered mammals.
- D. The world has lost most of its fish and clams.

6. How does the number of endangered animals in the United States compare with the world total endangered animal population?

- A. The United States total is less than half of the world's total.
- B. The United States total is equal to the world total.
- C. The United States total is greater than the world's total.

D. The United States is home to most of the endangered animals.

**(Please do not reproduce the bar graph page, project it only.)**

7. Other than becoming extinct, why might a species be removed from the endangered list?

- A. It is no longer threatened.
- B. All the members of the species have died.
- C. It is taken off the wildlife list.
- D. It is no longer interesting to the scientist.