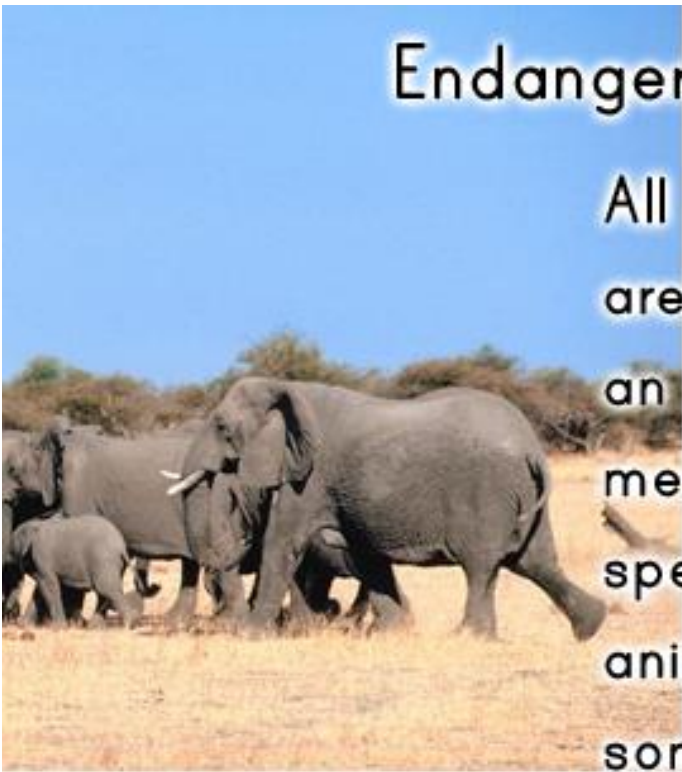


Endangered Animals

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A photograph of a herd of elephants in a savanna landscape. In the foreground, a large adult elephant with prominent white tusks is walking towards the left. Behind it, a smaller elephant is visible. The background shows a dry, open landscape with sparse trees under a clear blue sky.

All over the world, animals are becoming endangered. If an animal is endangered that means few animals of that species remain. If endangered animals are not protected, they sometimes become extinct.

Why are animals becoming endangered? Some animals are endangered *because of poaching*. Poaching is the illegal hunting of animals. In Africa, elephants are endangered because poachers kill elephants to get ivory. The ivory is very valuable.

Some animals are endangered *due to pollution*. In Asia, many river dolphins are endangered because humans dump waste water into the rivers. The waste water kills fish that dolphins eat and makes the dolphins sick.



Some animals are endangered **as a result of** *climate change*. In North America, polar bears are endangered because the polar ice is melting. The polar bears need the ice to hunt seals. As the ice disappears, many polar bears starve.

Some animals are endangered **from** *habitat loss*. A habitat is an animal's home. In South America, the Amazon rainforest is the habitat of many animal species. Humans are cutting down the trees in the Amazon to make cattle ranches. As the trees disappear, animals such as sloths have nowhere to live.