



## **Saving Wild Florida: Endangered Species Activity**

### **Background**

- **Endangered Species:** A species at risk of extinction due to one or more impacts that commonly include habitat loss, competition from invasive species, disease, and overexploitation.
- **Threatened Species:** A species at risk of becoming endangered in the foreseeable future if actions are not taken to protect and help the species.

Today, species are threatened by many natural and man-made causes, including habitat loss, competition from invasive species, climate change, disease, air and water pollution, and overexploitation. As a result, more and more species are at risk of extinction.

In 1973, Congress recognized the need to provide protection to imperiled species and created the Endangered Species Act. Through this policy and others, species are protected through many methods ranging from habitat preservation and restoration to captive breeding programs.

You can help endangered species as well by participating in litter clean-ups, creating a native plant habitat in your backyard, and volunteering at your local nature center. One of the biggest ways you can help is by telling your family and friends about endangered species and encouraging them to join you during one of these activities. It will take all of us working together in many ways to help these species survive.

### **Materials**

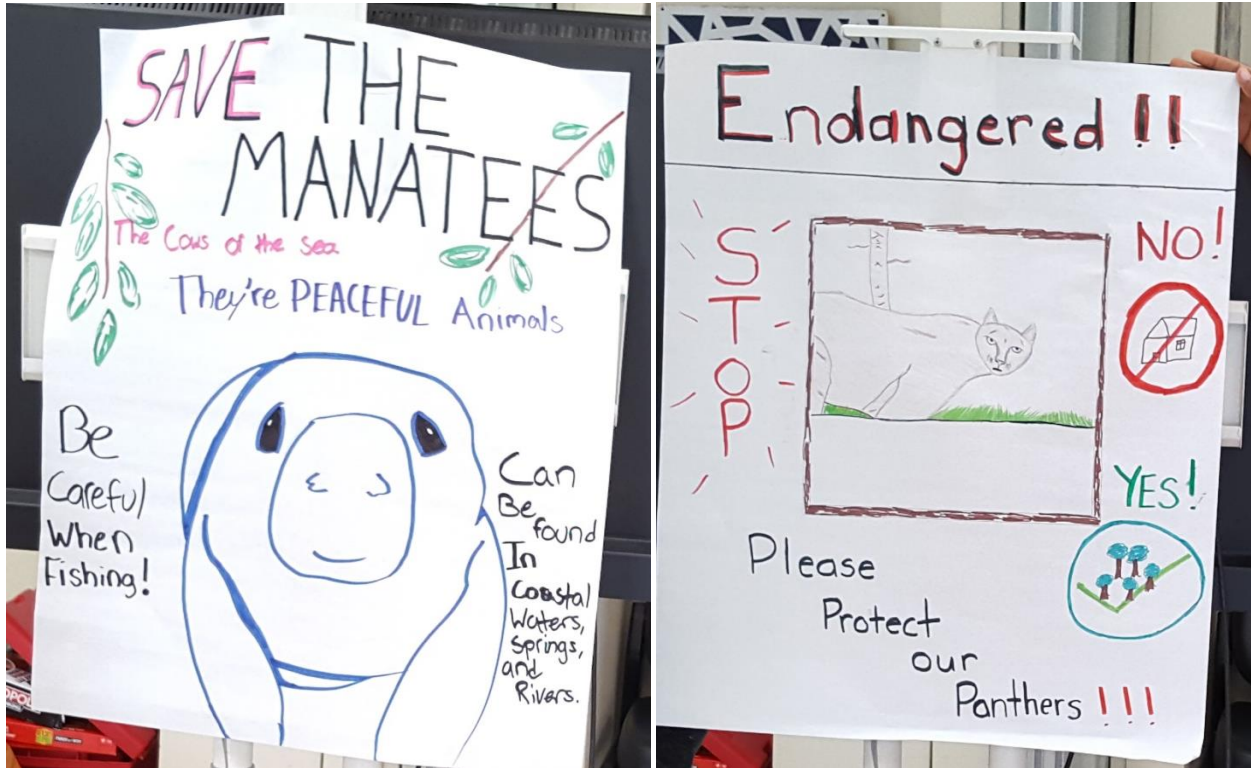
- Poster or Blank Sheet of Paper
- Markers or Colored Pencils
- Imperiled Species Reference Sheet

### **Instructions**

1. To start, select your favorite animal or plant species on the [imperiled species reference sheet](#). These are all endangered or threatened species found within Palm Beach County.
2. Create a poster or flyer that includes a slogan, drawings or photos of your species, and information from the questions below. Check out the imperiled species reference sheet to find the answers.
3. Below are some examples of information that can be featured on your flyer or poster:
  - a. What is its common and scientific name?
  - b. Which animal group does it belong to?
  - c. What type of habitat does it live in?
  - d. What adaptations does it have to survive in that habitat?

- e. What does it eat? Illustrate its food chain.
  - f. Is it classified as endangered or threatened?
  - g. Why is it endangered or threatened?
  - h. What are some ways that people can help your animal or plant?
4. Share your flyer with friends and family and explain how they can help your animal or plant to earn your endangered species badge. Download your badge by clicking [here](#).

### Poster Examples



\*Adapted from Project Learning Tree's "Life on The Edge" Activity\*

## **Standards Related to this Activity**

### **Third Grade**

*SC.3.L.15.1* Classify animals into major groups (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, arthropods, vertebrates and invertebrates, those having live births and those which lay eggs) according to their physical characteristics and behaviors.

*SC.3.N.1.1* Raise questions about the natural world, investigate them individually and in teams through free exploration and systematic investigations, and generate appropriate explanations based on those explorations.

### **Fourth Grade**

*SC.4.L.17.3* Trace the flow of energy from the Sun as it is transferred along the food chain through the producers to the consumers.

*SC.4.L.17.4* Recognize ways plants and animals, including humans, can impact the environment.

*SC.4.N.1.1* Raise questions about the natural world, use appropriate reference materials that support understanding to obtain information (identifying the source), conduct both individual and team investigations through free exploration and systematic investigations, and generate appropriate explanations based on those explorations.

### **Fifth Grade**

*SC.5.L.17.1* Compare and contrast adaptations displayed by animals and plants that enable them to survive in different environments such as life cycles variations, animal behaviors and physical characteristics.