

Biodiversity at Risk: Virtual Collections Exploration

Description: Students will explore an online exhibit titled “Biodiversity at Risk” from the Chicago Academy of Sciences/Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum to learn about how different organisms are at risk of extinction.

Grade Range (suggested): 6-8

Materials:

- Student worksheet
- CAS/PNNM Google Arts and Culture Online Exhibit: Biodiversity at Risk
<https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/biodiversity-at-risk/4wKywbFsWzFpKQ>

ENGAGE

1. Ask students to access the Chicago Academy of Sciences/Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum Online Exhibit: [Biodiversity at Risk](#).

PREPARE TO EXPLORE

2. Have students navigate to the online exhibit and explore by looking at the photographs of the specimens featured in the exhibit. Ask students what they notice or wonder.

EXPLORE

3. Have students choose three specimens to focus on.
4. For each, have students look closely at the image and learn as much as they can about the organism from the photograph. Have students record their observations in column 1 and 2. (*Looking at the body parts or coverings of the specimen may help students understand the habitat the specimen is from, or building from prior knowledge what kinds of food it might eat*).
5. Then, have students read the short paragraph under the photograph to learn about why the organism is at risk for extinction, or puts other organisms at risk, and record in column 3.
6. Repeat for the other two specimens.

REFLECT and SHARE

7. Ask students to compare and contrast the three specimens they chose. Are there any similarities or differences in any of the categories they recorded information?
8. Ask students to pick one of the organisms they learned about, and brainstorm one way that humans can help reduce the risk of extinction for that organism. Have the students share and explain their idea to someone else.

Extensions and Variations:

Have students explore other specimens from the CAS/PNNM collection through our [Google Arts and Culture](#) page to learn more about how collections are used and spark interest in learning about other organisms!

Biodiversity at Risk: Virtual Collections Exploration

1. Go to the Chicago Academy of Sciences/Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum Online Exhibit: [Biodiversity at Risk](#).
2. Explore the online exhibit by looking through the photographs of the specimens featured. What do you notice? What do you wonder?
3. Choose three specimens to focus on. First, look closely at the image and learn as much as you can about the organism from the photograph. Record your observations in column 1 and 2.
4. Then, read the short paragraph underneath the photograph to learn about how this organism is at risk for extinction, or puts other organisms at risk, and record in column 3.

1. Organism (name and drawing) Look closely at the image of the specimen. What do you notice?	2. What can you learn from your close observations of the organism in the collection? What kind of habitat do you think this organism is from? What kind of food might it eat? How might it interact with other organisms, including humans?	3. Why is this organism at risk for extinction, or how does it put other organisms at risk?

5. Are there any similarities or differences in the three organisms you studied?

6. Based on what you learned about one of the organisms, what is one way that humans can help reduce the risk of extinction? Explain your idea.

Biodiversidad en riesgo: exploración de colecciones virtuales

1. Vaya a la Exhibición en línea de la Academia de Ciencias de Chicago / Museo de Naturaleza Peggy Notebaert: [Biodiversidad en riesgo](#). (El contenido de este sitio web está en inglés, utilice una herramienta como [translate.google.com](#) o [wordreference.com](#) para revisar el contenido en español).
2. Explore la exhibición en línea mirando las fotografías de los especímenes presentados. ¿Que notaste? ¿Qué te preguntas?
3. Elija tres especímenes para concentrarse. Primero, mire de cerca la imagen y aprenda lo más que pueda sobre el organismo de la fotografía. Registre sus observaciones en las columnas 1 y 2.
4. Luego, lea el breve párrafo debajo de la fotog para conocer cómo este organismo está en riesgo de extinción, o pone en peligro a otros organismos, y escribe en la columna 3.

1. Organismo (nombre y dibujo) Mire de cerca la imagen del espécimen. ¿Que notaste?	2. ¿Qué puedes aprender de tus observaciones cercanas del organismo en la colección? ¿De qué tipo de hábitat crees que es este organismo? ¿Qué tipo de comida podría comer? ¿Cómo podría interactuar con otros organismos, incluidos los humanos?	3. ¿Por qué este organismo está en riesgo de extinción, o cómo pone en riesgo a otros organismos?

5. ¿Hay similitudes o diferencias en los tres organismos que estudiaste?

6. Según lo que aprendió sobre uno de los organismos, ¿cuál es una forma en que los humanos pueden ayudar a reducir el riesgo de extinción? Explica tu idea.