

BEING HUMAN

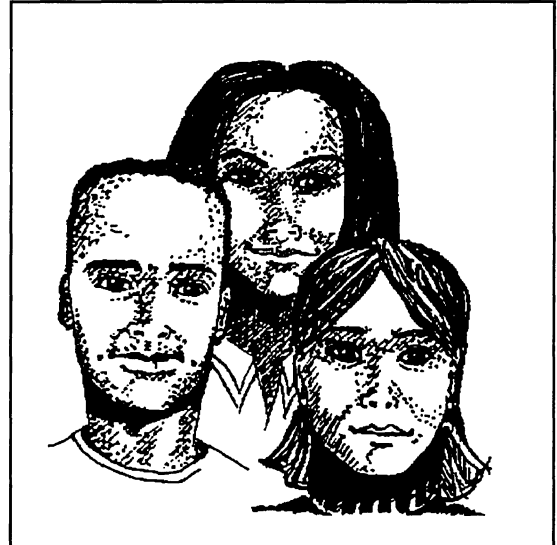
This book has introduced you to just a few members of the world's animal kingdom. There are almost thirty million species of plants and animals on earth, each with their own fascinating life story for you to discover. However, each day several forms of wildlife disappear forever. In fact, ninety-nine percent of all types of life that have existed on earth are now extinct.

In the early stages of earth's development, different types of life disappeared because of **natural causes**. Animals killed one another off and changes in weather made it impossible for others to survive. Many experts think that the dinosaur age ended when parts of other planets collided with earth. More recently though, extinction has been caused by the world's most intelligent animal--**Man**.

With Man's intelligence comes the responsibility for the protection of all other life forms, especially animals. Like people, animals protect their young, show emotions and feel pain. Each time we lose an animal to extinction, Earth becomes a less interesting and enjoyable place to live. If all chickens on Earth disappeared, the world would be quieter; but we would miss them.

One of the National Wildlife Federation's slogans is "We're all in this together," and together we can make a difference. Laws protecting some endangered animals have kept them from becoming extinct. There are more **bison**, bald eagles, brown pelicans and polar bears today than there were thirty or forty years ago. However, a better way to address the animal safety issue is to protect them before they become endangered.

Conservation parks, wildlife preserves and humane shelters are a few of the organizations man has put in place to protect the earth's wildlife. Man must continue to actively work to have a positive effect on the other animals of the world.



Story Specific Glossary Entries

bison--a mammal with a large head, short horns and a large, fleshy body. Similar to a buffalo.

Man--the human race

natural causes--changes that occur naturally and are not caused by Man

activities for science shorts: animal life #50

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Vocab Corner



Use these words in one or more puzzle, riddle, or poem.

natural causes
man

experiment
destruction of forests

Crack the Code

Some scientists study the relationships between plants and animals and how to protect them. Solve this puzzle to learn what those scientists are called.






 a b c d e f g








 h i j k l m








 n o p q r s t







 u v w x y z












Just for Fun!

List ten animal facts that you know that you did not know before you started doing *Science Shorts*.

A Science Stretch

Each of us must decide what we will do to help preserve the lives and the future of our fellow animals on this planet. What will you do, Human Being? Be specific.