

How Many "Un-endangered Species" Do You Know?

Match the picture of the animal with the sentence that describes it. Write the letter that is next to the animal's picture in the box next to the animal's name.



Elk—The elk is found mostly in the Rocky Mountains. The elk almost disappeared about 75 years ago. Today, there are more than 1,000,000.

Wood Duck—Many people think the wood duck is the most beautiful of all waterfowl. Wildlife experts did not think this species would survive because of damage to its habitat. But it did survive and today there are 5,500,000.

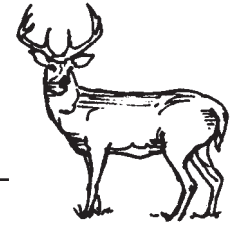
Pronghorn Antelope—This handsome animal is found mostly in the West and Southwest. It is one of the most interesting "Un-endangered Species," and there is no other animal like it in the entire world. Its future was very much in doubt 75 years ago when only about 12,000 could be found in the country. Today, there are 1,000,000.

Trumpeter Swan—This species probably came closer to disappearing forever than any of the "Un-endangered Species." At one time, there were only 73 left in the entire country. It was listed on the government's official "Endangered Species" list but today there is a healthy population of 25,000.

White-tailed Deer—This is our most plentiful big game animal. There are more than 20,000,000 in the nation. Like some other "Un-endangered Species," this animal can be hunted during regulated seasons with no danger to future populations.

Wild Turkey—This is one of the largest birds in North America. Because of the changes made to its habitat, it disappeared from many areas of the country about 100 years ago, but today there are more than 5,400,000 of these "Un-endangered Species" in the country, and they can be found in some places where they didn't even exist when the first settlers arrived.

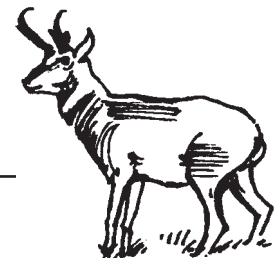
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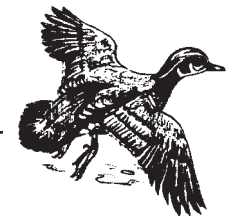
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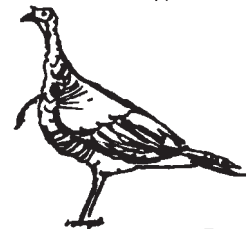
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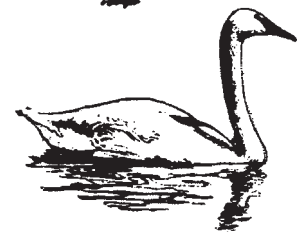
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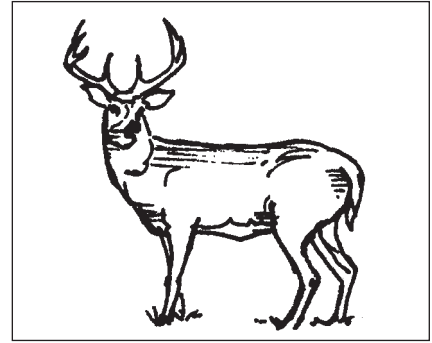


America's Wildlife Today

TRUE OR FALSE?

Below are 10 sentences about America's wildlife. Check (✓) if you think the statements are *TRUE* or *FALSE*.

Your teacher will discuss the correct answers with the class.



	TRUE	FALSE
1. If people would just leave wildlife alone, pretty soon there would be as many animals as there were when the first settlers arrived in America.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The wood duck makes its nest in trees.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. There were about 20 million white-tailed deer in the United States in 1900, but today there are less than 1 million.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Wildlife experts believe that in a few years it will be almost impossible to find a wild turkey anywhere in the United States.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. The first organized efforts to save wildlife in this country were started more than 100 years ago by sportsmen's clubs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. The number of wild turkey in the United States has been dropping for more than 100 years.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Almost all of the money for wildlife conservation programs in America comes from humane societies and animal rights groups.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. There were about 1,000,000 elk in the United States many years ago, but today there are less than 40,000.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Wildlife experts agree that the biggest problem facing wildlife today is hunting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. There are many more pronghorn antelope in the United States today than there were 100 years ago.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Test Your Friends and Family

Now that you have learned the story of "The Un-endangered Species" you can take this test home—and you can be the teacher.

How to Test Your Friends and Family

Give everyone a sheet of paper and a pen or pencil. Read the questions from this sheet and give everyone enough time to write down their answers.

After you have asked all 10 questions, go back over the questions and read the correct answer and the brief explanation that goes with each one.

This is your chance to be the teacher. Have fun.



1. Which of the following animals are endangered species?
(a) white-tailed deer (b) elk (c) wild turkey (d) none of them

2. What do you think has the most harmful effect on wildlife populations?
(a) pollution (b) habitat destruction (c) hunting (d) predators

3. Which of the following groups do you think pay the most money for wildlife conservation?
(a) humane societies (b) sportsmen and hunters (c) farmers and ranchers (d) campers and hikers

4. There were 500,000 white-tailed deer in the United States in 1900. How many do you think there are today?
(a) 100,000 (b) 500,000 (c) 1 million (d) 20 million

5. Compared to 100 years ago, how many elk do you think are in the United States today?
(a) less than half as many (b) about the same (c) 10 times as many (d) more than 20 times as many

6. There were about 100,000 wild turkey in the United States in the early 1950s. How many do you think there are today?
(a) less than 50,000 (b) about 100,000 (c) about 1 million (d) 5,400,000

7. The wood duck was in serious danger of extinction in 1915. Today, do you think it is:
(a) extinct (b) still in danger of extinction (c) not in danger of extinction, but still rare (d) common

8. In 1935, there were only 73 trumpeter swans left in the entire United States. Today, do you think the trumpeter swan is:
(a) extinct (b) in danger of extinction (c) not in danger of extinction, but rare (d) no longer endangered

9. The single most important factor in conserving wildlife is:
(a) controlling natural predators (b) providing suitable habitat (c) stopping all hunting
(d) leaving everything alone, letting nature take its course

10. The policy of most conservation organizations concerning hunting is:
(a) no comment (b) it should be banned (c) it is a useful part of conservation
(d) it was okay 100 years ago, but not today

ANSWERS

1. **(d)** None of these animals are in danger of extinction.
2. **(b)** Conservation experts agree that habitat destruction, caused by housing developments, road construction, mining and other factors, has had the most harmful effect on wildlife populations.
3. **(b)** While all of these groups have an interest in conservation, sportsmen and hunters provide the most financial support—more than 1 billion dollars each year, or nearly 3 million dollars a day.
4. **(d)** White-tailed deer numbered only 500,000 100 years ago. Today, there are more than 20 million.
5. **(d)** 75 years ago, elk were near their all-time low of about 40,000. Today, there are more than 1,000,000 with healthy populations in most western states.
6. **(d)** The number of wild turkey in the United States has increased significantly in the last several decades. There are more than 5,400,000 today.
7. **(d)** The wood duck is now the most common breeding waterfowl in the eastern United States.
8. **(d)** The trumpeter swan was removed from the Endangered Species List in the late 1960s, and there are now thriving populations in several national wildlife refuges.
9. **(b)** Conservation experts agree that providing suitable habitat is the most important factor in conserving wildlife.
10. **(c)** Most of the nation's leading conservation groups support regulated hunting as a necessary and acceptable part of modern wildlife management. Regulated hunting has not been a factor in the endangerment of any wildlife species.