

## YOUR MISSION: Teach others about animals at risk through art

1. Learn about animals at risk in your area by using resources such as the list of **10 Animals at Risk in Canada** or **10 of the Most Endangered Species in the US** below.
2. Select one of the following activities:

### GALLERY WALL

Create posters of animals at risk by drawing, painting, or using pictures from old magazines. Include information about the biggest threats they face and what we can do to help.



### CREATIVE WRITING

Individually or as a group, have students write from the perspective of an endangered animal describing the challenges they face – such as the struggle to find food, the fear of humans taking over their habitat, or the struggle to find another animal of their kind. Have them conclude their writing with “if only humans would...” to inspire. For example, “If only humans would stop throwing garbage in my clean water, I wouldn’t mistake plastic for food. if only humans wouldn’t cut down my trees, I would have a safe and cozy home.”

### RHYTHMIC EXPRESSION

Create poems or songs about animals at risk.


3. Share your creative talents with the school community, by displaying your gallery wall in the hallway of the school or sharing your poems and songs during the morning announcements.
4. Fill out the activity report including examples of your creative work to finish this step of the quest.



## WINTER QUEST

# ART FOR THE ANIMALS

## Ten Animals at Risk in Canada

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1. Swift Fox
  2. Blanding's Turtle
  3. Woodland Caribou
  4. Beluga Whale
  5. Piping Plover
  6. Narwhal
  7. Monarch Butterfly
  8. Burrowing Owl
  9. Grizzly Bear
  10. Vancouver Island Marmot

### 1. Swift Fox

**Habitat:** Prairie grasslands in Alberta and Saskatchewan

**Population:** Approximately 1,000

**Major threat:** Habitat loss because of urbanization such as the construction of houses and roads

**Projects to help:** Reintroduction and monitoring programs like those done by [Wildlife Preservation Canada](#)



### 2. Blanding's Turtle

**Habitat:** Wetlands, marshes, and shallow water bodies, mostly in Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia

**Population:** Around 10,000 individuals

**Major threats:** Habitat destruction and road mortality

**Projects to help:** Breeding and releasing turtles into the wild, such as [Blanding's Turtle School](#) (video, Earth Rangers and the Toronto Zoo)



### 3. Woodland Caribou

**Habitat:** Boreal forests across Canada

**Population:** Around 34,000 in the Boreal Forests, 1,500 in the Southern Mountain Population (British Columbia and Alberta), and 40 in Quebec

**Major threats:** Habitat loss because of industrial development (mining, logging, oil)

**Projects to help:** Programs such as [Collaborating for Caribou](#) (CPAWS Quebec)



## 4. Beluga Whale

**Habitat:** St. Lawrence Estuary, Hudson Bay and Arctic. The population in the St. Lawrence Estuary is endangered

**Population:** 55,000 with around 900 individuals in the St. Lawrence

**Major threat:** Pollution, habitat degradation, climate change, noise pollution

**Projects to help:** Protected areas such as the [Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park](#)



## 5. Piping Plover

**Habitat:** Sandy beaches and shorelines in the Atlantic Provinces, the Great Lakes and the Prairie Provinces.

**Population:** Total of around 700 breeding pairs.

**Major threats:** Loss of habitat because of human activity on beaches

**Projects to help:** Programs such as the [Piping Plover Conservation Program](#) in Nova Scotia (video, Birds Canada)



## 6. Narwhal

**Habitat:** Arctic waters, particularly around Baffin Bay and the Canadian Arctic Archipelago.

**Population:** Approximately 80,000 individuals

**Major threats:** Ice melt, noise pollution, and overhunting

**Projects to help:** Creation of protected areas, such as the [Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area](#)



## 7. Monarch Butterfly

**Habitat:** They breed in all provinces except Newfoundland and Labrador and migrate to Mexico in the winter.

**Population:** Has decreased by 90% in the past 30 years

**Major threats:** Loss of milkweed which is the only food monarch caterpillars eat

**Projects to help:** Citizen science projects like [Milkweed Watch](#)



## 8. Burrowing Owl

**Habitat:** Grasslands and prairies (Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba). They live in the burrows made by other animals such as ground squirrels and prairie dogs.

**Population:** Around 300 breeding pairs in Canada.

**Major threat:** Decrease in open treeless spaces for them to live

**Projects to help:** Breeding and reintroduction programs, such as [Burrowing Owl Animal Story](#) (video, BC Wildlife Park Kamloops)



## 9. Grizzly Bear

**Habitat:** Forests, mountain ranges, and tundra (Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, British Columbia and Alberta). The population in Alberta is threatened

**Population:** Less than 700 in Alberta

**Major threats:** Habitat loss because of industrial development and infrastructure, such as roads limiting access to food and creating a risk of vehicle collisions

**Projects to help:** Initiatives such as the government of Alberta's [Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan](#)



## 10. Vancouver Island Marmot

**Habitat:** Mountain areas of Vancouver Island in British Columbia

**Population:** Less than 300 in the wild

**Major threats:** Habitat loss because of logging and recreational activities such as hiking and ATV use

**Projects to help:** Work done by the [Marmot Recovery Foundation](#)

