

## **Saving the Takhi Horse from Extinction – K – 3rd Grade**

**Objective:** The students will be able to . . .

- Define the terms "extinction" and "endangered"
- Understand why conservation efforts are important for saving critically endangered species throughout the world
- Identify methods that zoos are using to conserve endangered species populations

### **INDIANA STATE STANDARDS:**

**K.LS.3** Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive

**1.LS.4** Use a model to represent the relationship between the needs of different plants and animals (including humans) and the places they live.

**2.LS.1** Determine patterns and behavior (adaptations) of parents and offspring which help offspring to survive.

**3.LS.4** Construct an argument that some animals form groups that help members survive.

**Approximate length:** 45 minutes

### **Materials needed:**

Computer and projector

Further information about Takhi Horses:

- [https://rangerrick.org/ranger\\_rick/takhi-horses/](https://rangerrick.org/ranger_rick/takhi-horses/)
- [http://wwf.panda.org/knowledge\\_hub/teacher\\_resources/best\\_place\\_species/back\\_from\\_the\\_brink/takhi.cfm](http://wwf.panda.org/knowledge_hub/teacher_resources/best_place_species/back_from_the_brink/takhi.cfm)

### **About the Lesson:**

The Takhi horse is a native animal of the Central Eurasian Steppe that almost went extinct 60 years ago. Thanks to conservation efforts by zoos, the population has increased and many horses have been released into the wild. This lesson briefly introduces the concept of endangered animals and provides general information about the Takhi horse. In addition, it provides a group lesson suggestion so that students can investigate other conservation efforts around the world.

### **Procedures:**

*Note: All resources found in this lesson plan were created by the author. Any outside resources used have been cited. All images were taken from websites that offer free stock images and stock footage.*

1. Begin by introducing students to the Takhi horse and endangered animals. A PowerPoint presentation has been provided for use in the classroom. If the teacher would like to turn this into a reading activity, the following websites have decent printables:
  - [https://rangerrick.org/ranger\\_rick/takhi-horses/](https://rangerrick.org/ranger_rick/takhi-horses/)
  - [http://wwf.panda.org/knowledge\\_hub/teacher\\_resources/best\\_place\\_species/back\\_from\\_the\\_brink/takhi.cfm](http://wwf.panda.org/knowledge_hub/teacher_resources/best_place_species/back_from_the_brink/takhi.cfm)
2. After the short presentation, split students into small groups and assign each group an endangered animal. The Endangered Animals PDF provides a number of animals. This assignment can also be completed individually.
3. Have students research conservation efforts for their animals and present their findings to the class.

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Arabian Oryx  
California Condor  
Corroboree Frog  
Bongo  
Regent Honeyeater  
Panamanian Golden Frog  
Bellinger River Turtle  
Golden Lion Tamarin  
Amur Leopard  
Brown Pelican  
Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel  
Steller Sea Lion  
Island Night Lizard  
Lake Erie Water Snake  
Gray Wolf  
Giant Manta Ray  
Saiga Antelope  
Bald Eagle  
Gray Whale  
White Rhinoceros  
Peregrine Falcon  
Galapagos Giant Tortoise

# The Takhi Horse of Mongolia

# What is an endangered animal?

According to the World Wildlife Federation (WWF), threatened species can fall into three categories:

**Critically Endangered (CR):** A species facing an *extremely* high risk of extinction in the wild.

**Endangered (EN):** A species considered to be facing a *very high* risk of extinction in the wild.

**Vulnerable (VU):** A species considered to be facing a *high* risk of extinction in the wild.

Source: [http://wwf.panda.org/our\\_work/wildlife/about\\_species/](http://wwf.panda.org/our_work/wildlife/about_species/)

# Think-Pair-Share!



- With a partner, list as many endangered species as you can! After 3 minutes, the partners with the longest list win!

Now, each group will share 1 animal from their list.

Try to share the name of an animal that nobody else has mentioned!

How many of the following animals did you class list? Can you name all of these animals?



Panda



Orangutan



Blue Whale



Asian Elephant

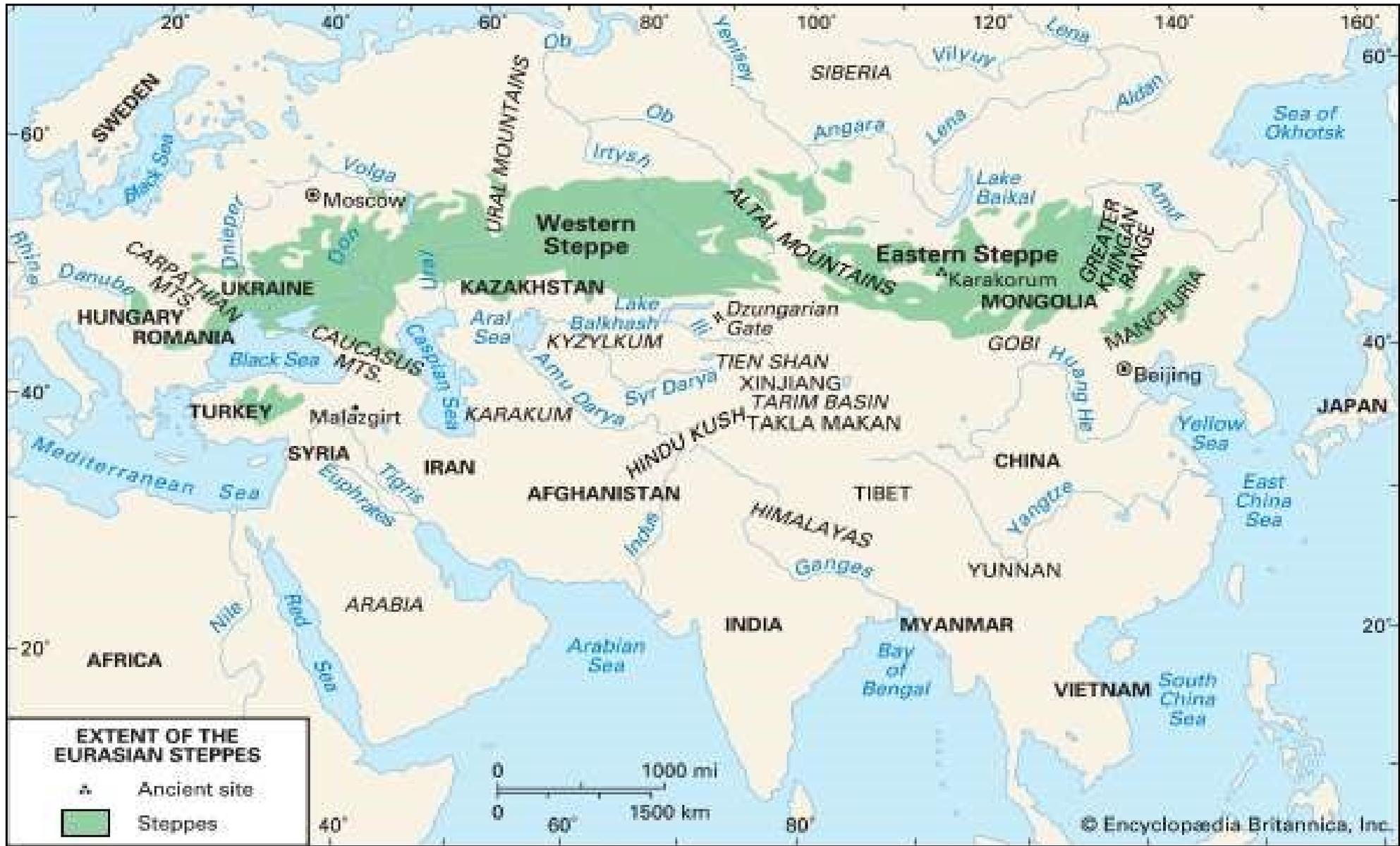


Tasmanian Devil

Most of those animals are well-known. However, have you ever heard of the...?



Takhi Horse



## About Takhi horses...

- They are more stocky and shorter than domesticated horses
- They are the only wild horses in the world that are not descendants from previously domesticated horses (Most “wild horses” come from domesticated horses that were set free or escaped).
- They live in herds that consist of one male horse and a number of female horses.
- They may live up to 36 years of age.



# On the brink of extinction



# An amazing comeback story...

- Captive breeding programs that began in zoos have revived the Takhi horse population
- The largest breeding program is found at the Askania Nova preserve in Ukraine
- Zoos all over the world now participate in the breeding program
- By the 1990s, there were over 1500 Takhi horses in the world
- Approximately 300 horses have been reintroduced to their native homeland of Mongolia

