

# What's the Word About Wildlife?



Find the word or phrase in the box at the bottom of the page that defines each boldfaced word. Then write the matching letter on the line.

## Hints:

- Say the word aloud.
- Break the word into syllables.
- Look for word parts you know.
- Use clues in the rest of the sentence.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Too many people in the world **exploit** wildlife for food, medicines, and pets.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The lemur of Madagascar is on the **verge** of disappearing forever.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Lemur populations are **dwindling** because of illegal hunting and the loss of their habitat.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Polar bears are **vulnerable** because much of the sea ice they live on is melting away.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. People who **poach** animals for food, skin, or fur contribute to the decreasing numbers of some species.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Those who care about the world's endangered and disappearing creatures can get involved in **conservation** efforts.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Some people think it would be fun to keep a wild or **exotic** animal as a pet.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. If the owner does not know how to care for a wild or exotic animal properly, he or she can **inadvertently** hurt the animal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Releasing a wild or exotic pet into the natural environment can be **catastrophic** for the health of native animals and habitat.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Some species of wild or exotic animals are at risk of **transmitting** diseases to humans.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Some countries and states **prohibit** the ownership of some animals.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. The **deliberate** capture of wild and exotic animals threatens many at-risk species today.

## Word Meanings

- |   |  |                                  |
|---|--|----------------------------------|
| a. to take an animal illegally          | e. make use of or benefit from                       | i. not on purpose                |
| b. completely disastrous                | f. at risk of being harmed                           | j. causing or allowing to spread |
| c. to not allow                         | g. becoming less                                     | k. on purpose                    |
| d. the act of preventing injury or loss | h. the point when something is very likely to happen | l. brought from another country  |



**Kindness 100:** American Humane Association is celebrating the 100th anniversary of Be Kind to Animals Week® in 2015 by focusing on the humane treatment of farm animals and animal actors, the importance of adopting pets from a shelter and including them in family disaster plans, and caring about the world's endangered and disappearing creatures. Learn more at [Kindness100.org](http://Kindness100.org).

©2015 American Humane Association. Text and design by The Education Center, LLC • Grade 4

**Note to the teacher:** For another great lesson on animals, go to [americanhumane.org/assets/pdfs/interaction/hab-he-do-animals-matterpdf.pdf](http://americanhumane.org/assets/pdfs/interaction/hab-he-do-animals-matterpdf.pdf).

### “What’s the Word About Wildlife?”

#### Answer Key

1. e
2. h
3. g
4. f
5. a
6. d
7. l
8. i
9. b
10. j
11. c
12. k



**Kindness 100:** American Humane Association is celebrating the 100th anniversary of Be Kind to Animals Week® in 2015 by focusing on the humane treatment of farm animals and animal actors, the importance of adopting pets from a shelter and including them in family disaster plans, and caring about the world’s endangered and disappearing creatures. Learn more at [Kindness100.org](http://Kindness100.org).

©2015 American Humane Association. Text and design by The Education Center, LLC • Grade 4