



MISSING SPECIES REPORTS

A PROJECT OF THE **ENDANGERED SPECIES COALITION**

WWW.ENDANGERED.ORG

Dear Educator,

The Missing Species Reports is a socially engaged arts practice working to raise awareness of ten species of animals, plants and insects that are severely endangered and are on the brink of vanishing. It is part of the educational and community component for the *Vanishing: Ten Species Your Children May Never See* campaign by the Endangered Species Coalition. The goal is for young people and communities across the nation to use the project activities to build support for efforts to save our endangered species, and for individuals to become advocates for the creatures with whom we share the planet. We believe that one of the most effective avenues for creating positive social change is education. Participating in the Missing Species Reports project in your classroom creates an opportunity for your students to begin making that change.

As a socially engaged arts practice, the project uses education and hands-on art making to provide age and audience appropriate discussions of endangered and extinct species, and particularly with school aged children, discussion of the root causes of the crisis including environmental degradation and resource depletion. The foundational elements include a k-12 curriculum broken into four age groups, two arts-related activities integrated into the curriculum, suggestions on how to move the learning outside the classroom, and, if desired, connect it to larger community and national efforts to call attention to the issue of endangered species, as well as many additional tools and resources to support and/or expand your participation. The Missing Species Reports project can be integrated into lessons for many subjects, and each curriculum packet includes National Common Core Standards for your convenience, as well as references for National Arts Standards and Next Generation Standards.

Please take a moment to visit <http://www.endangered.org/campaigns/vanishing-wildlife/> You will find a complete and detailed description of the project, as well as the downloadable curriculum and additional resources.

We hope that you will consider bringing this project into your classes and that you will invite other teachers from your school to participate as well. We believe this kind of educational program can enhance instruction of your students in a way that promotes hopefulness, a positive vision for the future, and a sense of their personal ability to enact change. We have also seen the effects on student learning that participating in a project with state, regional and national manifestations can have. Providing opportunities for students to contribute their individual action to a collective outcome is a powerful model for learning, not only educational subject matter but concern for community as well.

If you would like to participate in the project or if you simply remain curious, I encourage you to contact David Robinson for more information: drobenson@endangered.org

In solidarity,

Leda Huta
Executive Director
The Endangered Species Coalition