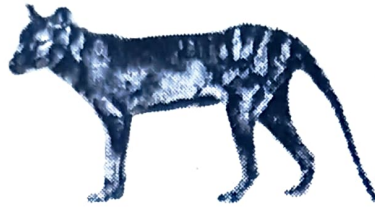


## The Endangered Species



Dodo



Tasmanian wolf

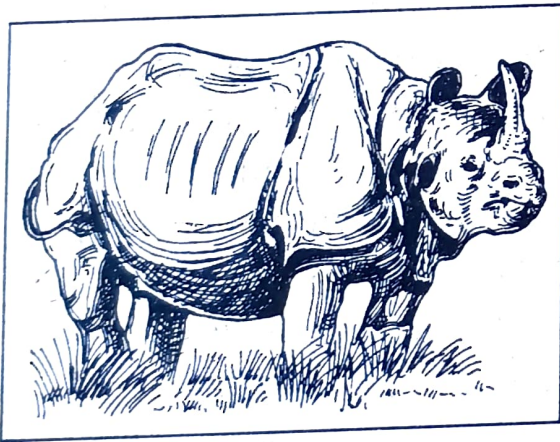


Caspian tiger



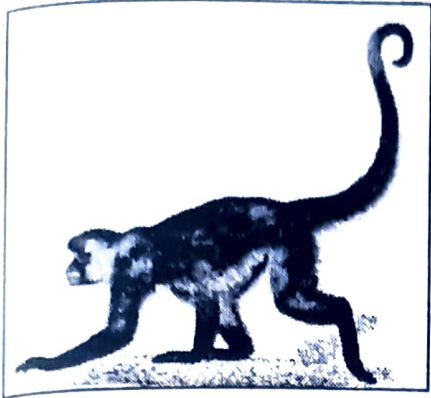
Passenger pigeon

Assam is rich in flora and fauna. It is the home of a number of rare species of wild animals. For this the state is known all over the world. Unfortunately some of the rare species of wild animals are facing extinction because of the actions of human beings. The rare birds and animals like dodo, Tasmanian wolf, passenger pigeon, Caspian tiger, blue buck and many others have already become extinct. These birds and animals were found in different parts of the world. The people of Assam must join hands to protect the rare species of birds and animals which are found here.



Assam is known all over the world for its one horned rhinoceros. Thousands of tourists visit our state every year to see the rhinos. This rare animal is facing a serious threat from poachers. Every year a good number of rhinos are killed by the poachers. They kill rhinos for their horns which are considered to be very valuable in many countries of the world.

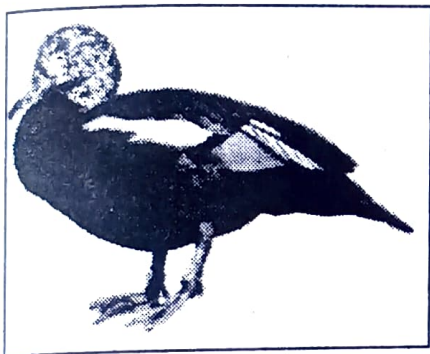
Kaziranga National Park is known as the home of one horned rhinos. The park has the highest concentration of rhinos. Rhinos are also found in Orang and Pabitora wild life sanctuaries. They have also been shifted to Manas National Park.



The golden langur is another rare species of animals. It is found in south-central Bhutan and north-western Assam. It is easily seen on the Bhutan side of the Manas river. It has a cream back which looks golden in good light and its sides are dark. Its face is black without any hair on it.

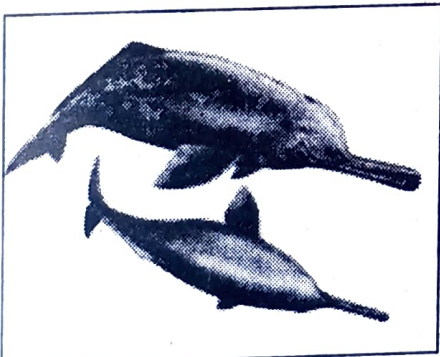
It has a long tail with a tassel at the end. It

is a shy animal and stays mostly in groups. In a group there may be as many as forty animals and their movements are controlled by a dominant male who moves first. They stay mostly on trees and descend to the ground only during the early hours of the morning or late in the evening to drink from a river or a stream. They leap from tree to tree at the approach of man. Though the exact number of this animal is not known, it is believed that in recent years the population of golden langur is increasing. It is due to the efforts of the conservationists.



The white winged wood duck is one of the birds that is facing extinction. At one point of time, the bird was believed to be extinct. In the year 1960, an assistant manager of a tea garden in Doomdooma located a few white winged wood ducks. From then efforts have been made to

protect this rare bird. Now white winged wood duck is seen in Na Duar and Chariduar forests and in parts of Arunachal Pradesh. It is a resident of the swamp forests of Assam. This bird is in the danger list because of habitat destruction.



The river dolphins were once a common sight in the river Brahmaputra. But these animals have become rare these days. They are facing grave threat from poachers and the dumping of chemical wastes in the river. According to a census

conducted in 1993, around four hundred river dolphins were counted in the Brahmaputra from Sadiya to Dhubri. Now the conservationists feel that their numbers will not exceed two hundred sixty. The oil of river dolphin is used as medicine. That is why it is falling a prey to poachers.



The greater adjutant stork is a rare bird found in Assam. Once this bird had a population of about eight hundred. But their number is feared to have come down rapidly. The unabated falling of trees and improvement of sanitation are considered to be the main reasons. This may be a threat to the survival of this kind of bird. On the positive side, some non-government organizations have already initiated moves to protect this rare bird.

Now, the question is how to protect these rare species of birds and animals. The government has already taken some measures in this respect. But these efforts are not enough for their protection. All sections of people of Assam must come forward to supplement the efforts of government officials and conservationists. The students can also play a major role in creating awareness among the people. If all the students of Assam come forward, a massive awareness campaign can be launched all over the state for protecting these endangered species. In this way they can create an environment where the common people may feel that these birds and animals are the pride of Assam. Students can also plant trees on special days, which will increase forest cover in Assam and protect the habitats of animals and birds. If every student plants a tree on his or her birthday, this can lead to a green revolution in the years to come.

**Wordnote**

flora (n)	: the plants that grow in a particular region
fauna (n)	: the animals of a particular region
endangered species	: a species that is in danger
rare (adj)	: existing only in small numbers
extinct (adj)	: no longer in existence
poacher (n)	: a person who illegally hunts birds, animals, fish etc.
concentration (n)	: a lot of something in one place
cream (adj)	: a pale yellowish white colour
descend (v)	: to come down from a higher to a lower level
conservationist (n)	: a person who takes an active part in the protection of environment
swamp (n)	: an area that is very wet
habitat (n)	: the place where a particular type of animal or plant is normally found
dump (v)	: to put something down in a careless way
wastes (n)	: materials that are no longer needed
unabated (adj)	: without becoming less strong
sanitation (n)	: the equipment and systems that keep places clean

**EXERCISE****Comprehension**

1. Answer the following questions. 1×6=6
- Write the names of birds and animals which have become already extinct.
  - Which state has the highest concentration of rhinos ?

- c) Where are the golden langurs found ?
- d) In which kind of forests are the white winged wood ducks found ?
- e) What does the 1993 census say about dolphins ?
- f) What is the positive side regarding the survival of greater adjutant stork ?
2. Write brief answers to the following questions. 2×4=8
- a) Write the names of national parks and sanctuaries where you can find rhinos.
- b) Why are the river dolphins decreasing day by day ?
- c) How does a golden langur look like ?
- d) What is the present condition of white winged wood duck ?
3. "This rare animal is facing a serious threat..."
- a) Which animal is referred to here ? 1
- b) What kind of threat are they facing and why ? 2
4. Write a short note on the nature of golden langur. 4
5. Write briefly about the greater adjutant stork. 2
6. What are the measures that the students can take for the protection of the rare birds and animals ? 3

### Grammar and usage

7. Fill in the blanks with appropriate form of the verbs given in brackets.
- a) Yesterday — (be) 30 November. Our winter vacation — (start) from 28 November. My parents and I — (go) to our uncle's house. My cousin Rup — (be) twelve years old. I always — (enjoy) his company. But before we — (reach) my grandparents — (arrive) there. I — (play) the whole day with my cousin. But my mother — (give) me a pleasant surprise.

She — (tell) me just now that we — (go) to Shimla next week. According to our plan we — (go) to Delhi by Rajdhani Express on 10 December. From Delhi we — (fly) to Shimla by Indian Airlines aircraft. We — (reach) there by the evening of 12 December. On 13 December at this time I — (play) with my cousin. As my aunt — (be) a professional singer she — (entertain) us with her songs in the evenings. I hope it — (be) a nice trip.

8. Read the following passage carefully. This passage is written in simple present tense. Now rewrite the passage two times in simple past tense and simple future tense.

Ms Snigdha Saikia is a very rich industrialist. She has her business establishments in different parts of India. Ms Saikia's house is on the top of a hill overlooking the river. She enjoys the natural beauty everyday from the balcony of her house. As she is very busy she hasn't much time for relaxation. Ms Saikia encourages the young generation in her own field.

## Vocabulary

9. Match the words on the right with the description on the left.

Creatures that eat flesh, greens and vegetables	insectivorous
Creatures that eat insects	herbivorous
Creatures that only eat flesh	omnivorous
Creatures that only eat vegetation	carnivorous

10. Write down the past and past participle form of the words given below.  
fly, begin, blow, lie, see, give, draw, rise, drive, sink.

11. Here are a few words that sound more or less same. They are spelt differently and have different meanings. Match the words with their correct meanings.

- Accept : difficult or impossible to read.  
 Except : that which makes something complete.  
 Eligible : willingly take something that is offered.  
 Illegible : admiration or approval.  
 Complement : not to include somebody or something.  
 Compliment : able to have or do something because they have the qualification.

### Composition

12. Look at the picture, use your imagination and write a short story based on the picture using different tense forms.



**Assignment**

13. Nowadays one of the burning issues regarding environment is the man elephant conflict. The elephants are destroying houses, damaging crops and even killing people. This is the result of deforestation in our country. Write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper on this issue.

**Spoken activity**

14. Here a topic has been given for group discussion. 'Birds and animals are our friends.' Make a group of three students and discuss among yourselves on this topic. You can share your own experience and be creative with words.

**Note to the teacher**

In this lesson students should be taught the correct use of tense forms. They are expected to learn about their role in wild life protection.

