

# Endangered and Threatened Species in the Comics

## Grades 4-8

Focus on Recovery

Comic strips can be a fun and entertaining way to educate readers. This activity will give students the opportunity to communicate with others what they have learned about Tennessee's endangered and threatened species and their ecosystems. They will do so by telling an endangered and threatened species success story using a comic strip.

### Objectives

Students will be able to (1) describe recovery projects in Tennessee and (2) communicate this information.

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### Age

Grades 4-8

### Time

One class period 50 minutes.

### Setting

The classroom.

### Correlation

Grade 4

C: Life Science

D: Earth Science

E: Science and Technology

F: Science in Personal and Social Perspectives

G: History and Nature of Science

Grades 5-8

C: Life Science

F: Science in Personal and Social Perspectives

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### Materials

- Copies of a cartoon strip form, enough for each student to have one
- Coloring materials—crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Pens and pencils
- Copies of "Success Stories", pgs. 74-79.
- Comic strips collected from local newspapers

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service publication entitled *The Road Back: Endangered Species Recovery Success with Partners* (optional) (source: [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov) or call 800/344-WILD)

### Preparation

- Read the three "Success Stories" found on pages 74-79, if possible, review the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service publication entitled *The Road Back: Endangered Species Recovery Success with Partners* (can be downloaded from the Service website:

[Http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/rec\\_pubs.htm](http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/rec_pubs.htm)).

- Collect comic strips and comic books to use as examples.

### Procedure

1. Review the three "Success Stories" with the class. Make copies available to older students. Review other examples of recovery success taken from *The Road Back: Endangered Species Recovery Success with Partners*. [endangered.fws.gov/recovery/rec\\_pubs.htm](http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/rec_pubs.htm)

2. Pass out copies of the comic strip form. Make the "Success Stories" and *The Road Back: Endangered Species Recovery Success with Partners* available to older students.

3. Share examples of comic strips and comic books with the class. Have the students create a comic strip based on their favorite success story. Have students include answers to these questions in their comic strip.

- What species or ecosystem is being recovered in these stories?
- Why were the species declining?
- What steps were taken to help?
- Who is helping to recover these species?

- How has the recovery been successful so far?

- What can we do to help?

4. Finished cartoon strips can be posted for other students to enjoy.

### Evaluation

Have students exchange comic strips or put students in pairs and have the pair exchange comic strips. Then have each student use their partners comic strip to answer the questions from #3 of the procedure.

Post comic strips on school bulletin board or in the school newspaper.

Have class work together to create one large comic strip for school bulletin board.

## Comic Strip Form
