



# **Wildlife for Tomorrow:<sup>®</sup>**

**The Story of Our Un-endangered Species**

**T E A C H E R ' S   G U I D E**

An educational video  
program for grades 4—6



**National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc.**

# Wildlife for Tomorrow<sup>®</sup>

## The Story of Our Un-endangered Species

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### INTRODUCTION

Wildlife and conservation experts agree that America has the best system of wildlife management in the world. There is no better example of the success of wildlife management in our nation than the story of the “un-endangered species” — species such as elk, wild turkey, pronghorn antelope and white-tailed deer. These species were on the brink of extinction a century ago but have been restored to abundance today.

Despite great strides that have been made in wildlife conservation, many students, for a variety of reasons, tend to view all wildlife as threatened or endangered. This is simply not the case.

The purpose of *Wildlife for Tomorrow* is to familiarize today’s students with the history of wildlife management in America and with the remarkable comeback of our un-endangered species. The best way to ensure support for wildlife conservation in the future is to make students aware of the tremendous success we have had in restoring wildlife in the past.

In an upbeat, entertaining fashion, *Wildlife for Tomorrow* offers a “good news” wildlife message and will make a valuable addition to your environmental science, biology or current events curriculum.



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## CLASSROOM PRESENTATION FORMAT

Teresa Richardson and Steve Adams, representing The Council for Wildlife Conservation and Education, visit a class of elementary school students. Using historical photos and modern wildlife footage, Teresa and Steve document the amazing comeback of our un-endangered species. The classroom format was actually recommended by students and educators as an effective way of communicating to today's students.

Additionally, the program features input from such respected conservation organizations as Wildlife Management Institute and the National Wildlife Federation.

In a colorful and fun presentation, students are made aware of the scientific techniques that wildlife managers used to help these species rally. Population statistics from the late 1800s and early 1900s are compared with those of today.

**Designed for Grades 4-6**

**Length: 17 minutes**

**“ I think this video will  
help people care  
about wildlife.”**  
— Student  
Palmetto, FL

## BEFORE SHOWING THE PROGRAM

It may be helpful to review some of the terminology used in *Wildlife for Tomorrow* prior to showing the video. Although the video clearly explains terms such as “habitat,” “trapping and translocating,” “species” and “endangered,” reviewing the meaning of these terms with your students beforehand will aid in their comprehension and enjoyment of the program.

Younger students may also not fully understand the difference between “wildlife” and domestic animals such as horses, dogs and cats. You may want to explain that wildlife lives in the forest and remote areas where it may never encounter humans and is not reliant on them for food and shelter.



## How Many “Un-endangered Species” Do You Know?

(WILDLIFE IDENTIFICATION)

This activity master measures the student’s ability to match drawings of various “un-endangered species” with the name and description of that animal. It can be used as a pre- and post-test or simply to measure knowledge gained from the program.

### ANSWERS

- B Elk**—The elk is found mostly in the Rocky Mountains. The elk almost disappeared about 75 years ago. Today, there are more than 1,000,000.
- D Wood Duck**—Many people think the wood duck is the most beautiful of all waterfowl. Wildlife experts did not think this species would survive because of damage to its habitat. But it did survive and today there are 5,500,000.
- C Pronghorn Antelope**—This handsome animal is found mostly in the West and Southwest. It is one of the most interesting “Un-endangered Species,” and there is no other animal like it in the entire world. Its future was very much in doubt 75 years ago when only about 12,000 could be found in the country. Today, there are 1,000,000.
- F Trumpeter Swan**—This species probably came closer to disappearing forever than any of the “Un-endangered Species.” At one time, there were only 73 left in the entire country. It was listed on the government’s official “Endangered Species” list but today there is a healthy population of 25,000.
- A White-tailed Deer**—This is our most plentiful big game animal. There are more than 20,000,000 in the nation. Like some other “Un-endangered Species,” this animal can be hunted during regulated seasons with no danger to future populations.
- E Wild Turkey**—This is one of the largest birds in North America. Because of the changes made to its habitat, it disappeared from many areas of the country about 100 years ago, but today there are more than 5,400,000 of these “Un-endangered Species” in the country, and they can be found in some places where they didn’t even exist when the first settlers arrived.

## ACTIVITY MASTER 2

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### America's Wildlife Today: True or False

This activity master has been prepared in such a way that it can serve as a pre- and post-test should you wish to measure attitudes and general knowledge concerning wildlife before and after viewing.

#### ANSWERS

1. **FALSE** Most conservation experts disagree with this statement. Carefully planned and researched scientific management programs over the past half century have proven that wildlife will do much better with assistance from wildlife management professionals.
2. **TRUE** Unlike most other kinds of ducks, the wood duck makes its nest in trees. For this reason, the wood duck almost became extinct many years ago when many, many trees were cut for lumber.
3. **FALSE** The exact opposite of this statement is true. Habitat destruction and commercial exploitation had reduced the white-tailed deer population to far less than 1 million around 1900. However, scientific wildlife management programs have since restored the deer to healthy numbers, and they now total more than 20 million.
4. **FALSE** Wildlife experts report that there are approximately 5,400,000 wild turkey in the United States today and that their future is very bright.
5. **TRUE** The first organized efforts to save wildlife in this country were started by sportsmen's groups such as the New York Sportsmen's Club, the Boone and Crockett Club and numerous other state and local groups. These groups not only provided significant amounts of money for wildlife conservation programs but also supported legislation aimed at conserving our wildlife.
6. **FALSE** Wild turkey in the United States decreased in the early part of this century but have undergone a dramatic increase for the past 40 years, thanks to modern wildlife management programs.

7. **FALSE** Humane societies certainly have a genuine interest in wildlife conservation, but the majority of the money to further conservation efforts comes from the nation's hunters and sportsmen through licenses, special taxes on firearms and ammunition and private contributions.
8. **FALSE** The exact opposite of this statement is true. Wildlife experts estimate the total population of elk at only about 40,000 in 1910. Today, there are more than 1,000,000.
9. **FALSE** Wildlife management professionals agree that the biggest problem facing wildlife is the loss of suitable habitat. Hunting has long been an acceptable and valuable part of wildlife management and has never been a factor in the endangerment of any species.
10. **TRUE** At about the turn of the century, pronghorn antelope populations had declined to approximately 12,000. Today, there are more than 1 million.

## Test Your Friends and Family

This is a take-home worksheet which gives the student an opportunity to "be the teacher" at home and to discuss the story of "The Un-endangered Species" with his or her family. If you have not used a worksheet such as this before, we hope you'll consider using this one. It has proven very popular with youngsters.

**ANSWERS:** The answers to this activity master are included on the bottom of the sheet, itself.

# THE "UN-ENDANGERED SPECIES"

These species have been rescued from near extinction by wildlife management programs administered by state and federal conservation agencies.



## Wild Turkey

Then: 650,000  
Now: 5,400,000



## Pronghorn Antelope

Then: 12,000  
Now: 1,000,000



## White-tailed Deer

Then: 500,000  
Now: 20,000,000



## Rocky Mountain Elk

Then: 40,000  
Now: 1,000,000



## Wood Duck

Then: Very Rare  
Now: 5,500,000



## Trumpeter Swan

Then: Only 73  
Now: 25,000

