

19. Endangered species

Requirements: internet access

7 – 11 years: teacher to share online text and discuss 'empathy', then individually or in pairs

12 – 14 years: individually or in pairs

Curriculum: Science (animals and their habitats); English (Writing – poetry) Arts; Music; Computing (responsible online use)

Time: 20 minutes

An endangered species is a plant or animal that is very likely to become completely extinct soon. This happens because their total numbers are very low or their habitat is being destroyed. Once a species is extinct, it has completely died out. [Read the report of George, a Hawaiian tree snail](#), who was the last of his species.

Known in Hawaiian as kāhuli or pūpū kani oe, native folklore says these snails "sing beautifully" as they move through the trees (a sound likely created by wind or nocturnal crickets) and are known as the 'voices of the forest'.

‘Empathy’ is the ability to understand and share the feelings of another living being. Imagine your feelings if you knew your species is endangered. As a class, brainstorm these feelings.

Creative work

Either: Write a poem expressing the emotions of an endangered species

Or: Compose a piece of music entitled ‘voices of the forest’.

The work can take traditional or digital forms.

