

Endangered species in the UK - *mammals*



Some of the most endangered mammals in the UK are also best loved. They feature in famous children's books. Ratty in 'Wind in the Willows' (really a water vole). Beatrice Potter's mischievous Squirrel Nutkin. The otter in Ring of Bright Water. Can you remember what Dormouse said in Alice's adventures in wonderland?

What you can do

Gardens, both large and small, are as important for wildlife as they are for us - we can actively encourage wild 'guests' to share our private green spaces. A garden bustling with wildlife is much more interesting. With a wealth of animals turning up to live in the habitats you have created for them, what a great opportunity for studying nature right on your own doorstep! For tips on how you can make your garden wildlife friendly visit

www.ypte.org.uk

done this

What schools can do

Create a wildlife garden or leave strips of land for wild meadow flowers.

done this

Find out more

www.wildwoodtrust.org
www.naturalengland.org
www.wwf.org.uk

my favourite mammal

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Dormouse

The dormouse's name comes from the French word 'dormir', meaning 'to sleep'. These tiny mammals are endangered due to the loss of their woodland habitat, and have disappeared from 50% of their former range. Conservation projects are now reintroducing them to restored woods.

stick a picture here



Otter

The European otter is classed as 'vulnerable to extinction'. Its main threat comes from humans, through habitat destruction, pollution and traffic. We don't know how many otters still exist in Britain, but numbers are gradually increasing in some areas.



Red Squirrel

Britain's red squirrels are under threat from increasing numbers of grey squirrels, plus disease and traffic. It is estimated that only 140,000 remain, compared to more than 2.5m greys. Conservation strategies are focusing on managing conifer forests, the reds' preferred habitat. A Wildwood Trust breeding programme has been very successful. The squirrel babies, once grown up are being transported to the Welsh island of Anglesey to live wild and free.

stick a picture here



Water Vole

The water vole is Britain's fastest disappearing mammal and this catastrophic decline has been brought about by a combination of poor habitat management, pollution and the introduction of North American mink, a voracious water vole predator.

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