

Name _____



Species in Danger

Directions: Read the informational passage carefully. Study the chart about endangered species. Then, answer the questions using both the passage and the chart.

Informational Passage: *Endangered Species Around the World*

Around the globe, many animals are at risk of extinction. Endangered species are animals whose numbers are so low that they could disappear forever. Scientists monitor these species to understand the causes of their decline, such as habitat loss, hunting, and climate change. Protecting endangered species is important because each animal plays a role in its ecosystem. Without them, the balance of nature can be disrupted.

Species	Region	Estimated Population	Major Threat
Giant Panda	China	About 1,860	Habitat loss
African Elephant	Africa	About 415,000	Poaching for ivory
Hawksbill Turtle	Tropical Oceans	Fewer than 25,000	Illegal shell trade
Snow Leopard	Central Asia	About 4,000-6,500	Climate change & hunting

1. What does it mean when a species is *endangered*?
2. Which species has the smallest estimated population according to the chart?
3. What is the major threat to African elephants?
4. Using both the passage and the chart, explain why protecting endangered species is important.
5. Which two species in the chart are most at risk due to human trade, and what products are they hunted for?