

THE BLACK RHINO PROJECT

Research Black Rhinos and address the following:

- explain why it is going extinct.
- determine its role in the ecosystem.
- provide population data for the rhino dating back at least 10 years.
- What is a keystone species? Is the Black rhino a keystone species?

What gives a species value and why should a species be conserved?

1. Research each of the following justifications for conserving a species and provide a brief description of each:

- Ecological justification
- Cultural justification
- Economic justification
- Utilitarian justification.

2. Rank the justifications in order from most compelling to least compelling regarding the conservation of Black Rhinos and justify your ranking.

Take a position on the following proposal and develop a short (one minute) presentation to justify your position.

The black rhino is listed as "critically endangered", with an estimated population of fewer than 5000 individuals remaining in the wild. With the extinction of this species described as "highly likely," the governments of several African nations have proposed using the Black Rhino as a "sacrificial species." Under their proposed program, permits will be auctioned off allowing permit holders to hunt and kill a black rhino until there are no surviving Black Rhinos. All moneys raised from this effort will be used in the conservation of other vulnerable species that have a greater likelihood of survival.

If you choose to sacrifice the Black Rhino species by supporting the "sacrificial Species" program, you must present and justify your decision. You should:

- Identify another endangered species whose conservation and survival is of greater importance. Use the same ranking system as above to rank your selected species.
- Explain your species' importance to the audience.

If you oppose the "sacrificial Species" program, you must justify your decision.

Investigate other options and propose a course of action. These may include:

- Let nature take its course - ff they go extinct, so be it.
- Actively conserve Black Rhinos to the fullest of our ability.
- Others options you develop.

Present your proposal and justify it using data, evidence and your ranking system.