



WILD CLASSROOM

Conservation in the Classroom

Supplemental Material Packet



THE WILD WONDERS OF MADAGASCAR

A Virtual Field Trip Throughout the Forests, Deserts, and Beaches of the World's Fourth-Largest Island

Court Whelan

*Chief Sustainability Officer and Expedition Leader
Natural Habitat Adventures*

Live streamed on May 15, 2024

12:30 pm ET/9:30 am PT

Recording available on the [Wild Classroom YouTube channel](#)

Contents



Warm-up for students, with brainstorming questions to get them ready to watch the livestream



Wrap-up for students, with quiz questions to assess understanding after they have watched



Teacher guide containing optional discussion questions, helpful resources, and quiz key

THE WILD WONDERS OF MADAGASCAR

Student Warm-Up

Get ready to watch the Conservation in the Classroom event by reading and brainstorming about the topic with the questions below.

Locate:

Madagascar is a large island off the coast of what **continent**? _____

Define:

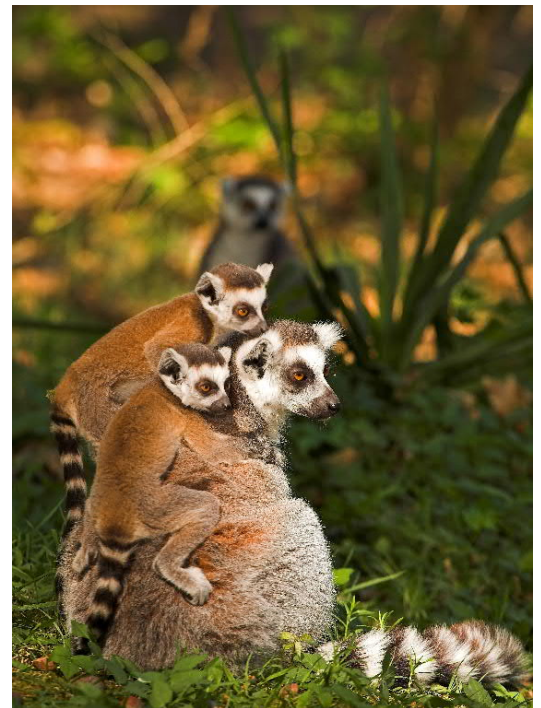
More than 11,000 **endemic** plant species, including seven species of baobab tree, share the island with a vast variety of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and others.

(Source: [WWF](#))

Use the context clues to write your own definition of *endemic*:

Brainstorm:

Madagascar is home to extraordinary wildlife, including many species of reptiles and mammals that are found nowhere else on earth. Name one **reptile** and one **mammal** that you think may be found in Madagascar.



© R.Isotti, A.Cambone / Homo Ambiens / WWF

Connect:

Madagascar has developed many unique ecosystems, including rain forests, deserts, mangroves, and coral reefs. Explain the connection between ecosystems and **biodiversity**. How would having a variety of ecosystems impact the variety of plants and animals a place has?

THE WILD WONDERS OF MADAGASCAR

Student Wrap-Up

Respond to the following quiz questions and prompts to show what you've learned after watching the Conservation in the Classroom event.

1) What does it mean if a species is endemic to Madagascar?

- a. The species is very common in Madagascar.
- b. The species lives all around the world.
- c. The species is extinct in Madagascar.
- d. The species can only be found in Madagascar.

2) Why do you think so many species (about eight in 10) in Madagascar are endemic?

3) Name three species mentioned in the presentation that live in Madagascar.

-
-
-



Court Whelan / Nat Hab Adventures

4) True or false? Millions of years ago, Madagascar was not an island and instead was connected to Africa and India.

5) Name one threat facing the species and habitats of Madagascar.

BONUS: Madagascar is home to many threatened or endangered species, including the ploughshare tortoise, which is only found in a very small area of northwestern Madagascar. How would an animal's small, limited geographic range (such as the ploughshare tortoise's) make it more vulnerable to extinction?

THE WILD WONDERS OF MADAGASCAR

Teacher Guide

Use the discussion questions to further enhance student comprehension following the event viewing. For additional information on Madagascar and biodiversity, please refer to the list of articles, videos, and teaching materials in the additional resources section. Also included is the answer key to the student wrap-up quiz on the preceding page.

Discussion Questions

- What animal would you be most excited to see if you visited Madagascar and why?
- What kinds of ecosystems are there in Madagascar?
- What is biodiversity? Why is Madagascar so biodiverse?
- What does endemic mean? Can you think of another example of a species that is endemic to a particular area?
- Why is it important to protect the wildlife of Madagascar, even if you live very far away?

Additional Resources

- Learning activities: [Biodiversity toolkit](#)
- Video: [What is biodiversity?](#)
- Video: [What is an endangered species?](#)
- Web story: [What is biodiversity?](#)
- Web page: [Madagascar](#)
- Web page: [Fifteen Fascinating Facts About Lemurs](#) (Natural Habitat Adventures)
- Kahoot! Quiz: [Mangroves](#)
- Kahoot! Quiz: [Threats to forests](#)
- Video Guide: [Our Coastal Seas](#)

Student Wrap-Up Answer Key

1. d
 2. It has been geographically isolated as an island (species have evolved over millions of years to live there).
 3. Answers will vary and could include ring-tailed lemur, fossa, chameleon, aye-aye, and giraffe-necked weevil.
 4. True
 5. Climate change, deforestation, and illegal wildlife trade
- BONUS: Having a limited geographic range can cause a species to be more vulnerable to threats such as climate change and deforestation because if something were to destroy or damage their habitat, food source, etc., they would be limited in where to relocate and may have a hard time adapting.