

OPERATION WILDLIFE VOCABULARY

RECOMMEND THAT THESE WORDS BE REVIEWED OR INTRODUCED PRIOR TO THE PRESENTATION

Assistance League of Hawaii ***An all-volunteer, non-profit organization chartered in 1971 and dedicated to providing community service programs and education to the people of Hawaii***

Atoll	Volcanic island that eroded and collapsed back into the ocean, leaving a coral ring surrounding a lagoon where the volcano once existed.
Climate Change	Significant weather variations (heat wave, increased amount of rain or number of tornados and hurricanes, long-term drought, excessive cold and snow) brought about by the progressive, gradual rise of the Earth's surface temperature and/or the trapping of the Earth's heat as a result of more carbon dioxide and other gasses in the air from the burning of coal, oil, and gas.
Competitors	Animals that compete with native species for food, space and water; may bring diseases for which the native species have no resistance.
Conservation	The attempt to preserve and protect wild animals and plants from extinction; saving a resource.
Ecosystem	A geographical area where animals, plants, the landscape, and the climate all interact together as well as affect one another; can be as small as a puddle or as large as the Earth itself.
Endangered Species	Animal or plant species whose numbers have declined so much that it is in danger of dying out.
Endangered Species Act	The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has officially designated over 1,600 species in danger of extinction, beginning in 1973.
Endemic	Peculiar to a particular people or locality; found only in one place.
Extinct	Animal or plant species never to be seen again because there are none living; they have vanished from our plant Earth, perhaps forever.
Food Chain	A system where a small animal (or plant) is eaten by a larger animal which, in turn, is eaten by an even larger animal.
Habitat	A place where a group of living organisms live in the same area at the same time, interacting together.
Habitat Loss	The destruction of the animals' and plants' home to make way for the needs of people.
Invasive Species	A species found in an area where it does not normally exist and due to lack of natural enemies multiplies rapidly, causing harm to the native plants and animals; simply called a pest.

Native	Animals and plants living in a particular country or region; not necessarily endemic (found only in that place).
Over-hunting/Over-fishing	Animals and fish are being killed faster than nature can replace them; eventually, if not restricted, can lead to extinction
Papahānaumokuākea	The Hawaiian name for the Northwest Hawaiian Islands National Monument, the world's largest ocean water conservation area, located north of Kauai; to keep the ecosystem undisturbed, no fishing or people are allowed.
Poach	To hunt animals unlawfully for personal gain.
Pollution	Unclean water, air or soil by toxic chemicals from industrial waste, pesticides, erosion, trash and litter that can affect the health, survival, or activities of humans, animals and plants in an unwanted way.
Population Increase	Human population growth which destroys animal habitats, causing conflicts between people and animals.
Predator	An animal that hunts other animals for food.
Rainforest	The Earth's oldest living ecosystem; consisting of tall, dense jungle with high amounts of rainfall each year plus a very hot and humid climate; contains more than half of the world's plant and animal species yet covers only about 6% of Earth's surface; being destroyed equal to 1 football field size area per second.
Recycling	Collecting and reprocessing a resource so it can be used again, such as aluminum cans, newspapers, plastics, glass, old electronic items (especially computers, cell phones, ink cartridges).
Species	A unique group of organisms which interbreed and live together in a similar environment.
Stewardship	The job of taking care of something, such as land or animals.
Threatened Species	Animal or plant species headed toward being endangered but there is time to save them.