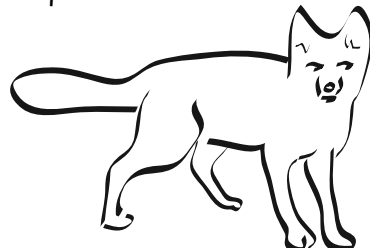




Mapping Canada's Critters

> Section A) Endangered Species Across Canada

All the living creatures of Canada are part of an ecosystem, so we all depend on each other. This is why we must be very concerned when a plant, animal, bird, reptile, fish, insect, or any living creature in Canada becomes endangered. Endangered means that there are so few of a species left that they are in danger of becoming extinct very soon. When an animal or plant is extinct, there are no more left and it's gone forever. There is nothing we can do to get it back. But if we protect animals that are at risk or endangered, we give them the chance to raise families, and increase their numbers. Here are six of the 516 species in Canada that our government's Species at Risk Act (SARA) is working to protect:



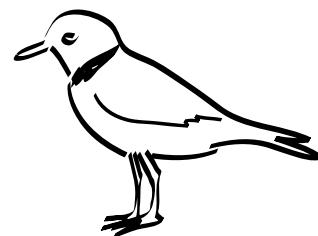
The Swift Fox



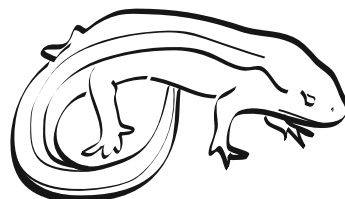
The Wolverine



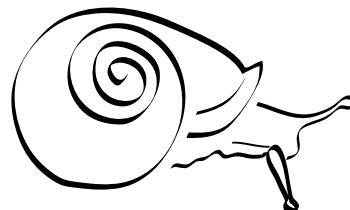
American Ginseng



The Piping Plover



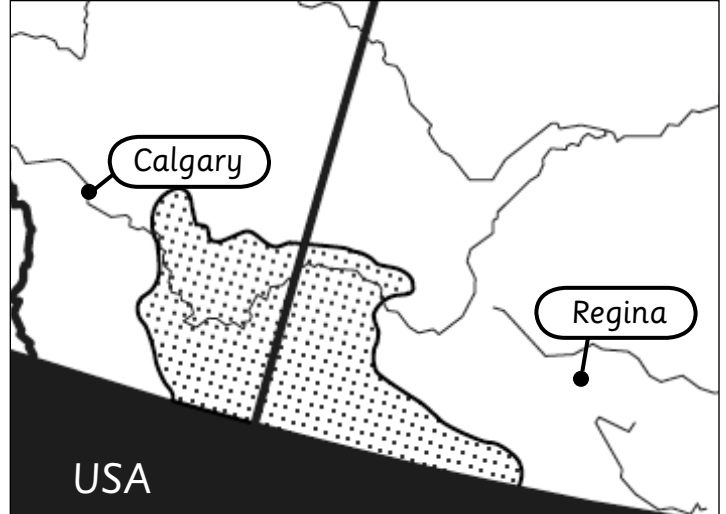
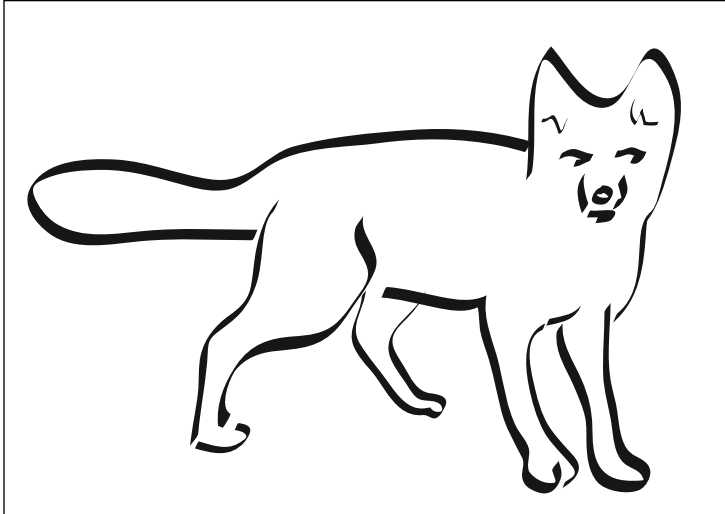
The Prairie Skink




The Oregon Forestsnail



Name: _____



 Historic swift fox range

1. The Swift Fox

The swift fox is small and yellow, with a black tip on its bushy tail. It was once found in prairies from southern Canada to Texas. But the last Canadian specimen was captured in 1928. One reason it's threatened is because we've converted so much wild grassland to farms. The swift fox was also often hunted, trapped and poisoned by farmers trying to keep coyotes and foxes from their livestock. Although there were no more swift foxes left in Canada, over the last few decades conservationists have begun catching swift foxes in America and releasing them in Canada. The swift fox is an example of how we can save endangered species from near extinction if we work to protect them.

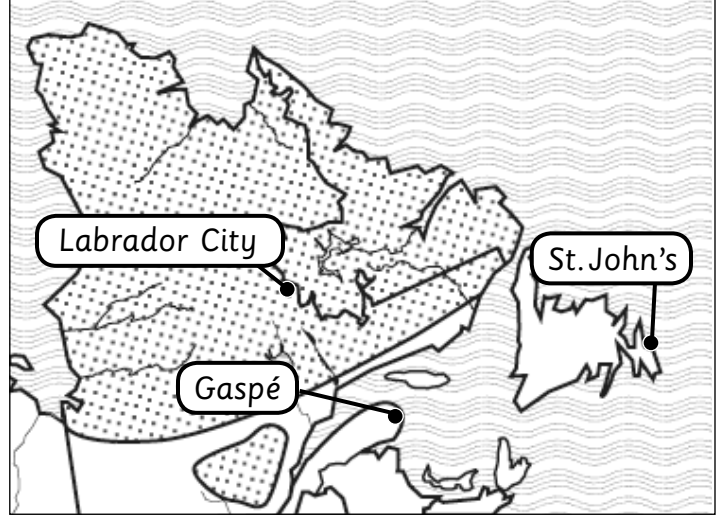
i) What province(s) provide the habitat needed for swift foxes?


ii) How have humans changed the swift fox's habitat?





Name: _____



 Historic wolverine range (Eastern population)

2. The Wolverine

The wolverine looks like a small bear with dark brown and yellow fur and a long bushy tail. A large male is usually about one metre long, from the tip of its nose to the end of its tail. The wolverine is known for being strong and clever. First Nations mythology describes the wolverine as a trickster and a link to the spirit world. It roams over large areas of land and is very shy of humans. It was widely hunted for its fur in the 19th century. Dwindling caribou populations, which the wolverine depends on for food, and the development of land for farms and towns are two other reasons that wolverines have become endangered on the east coast of Canada.

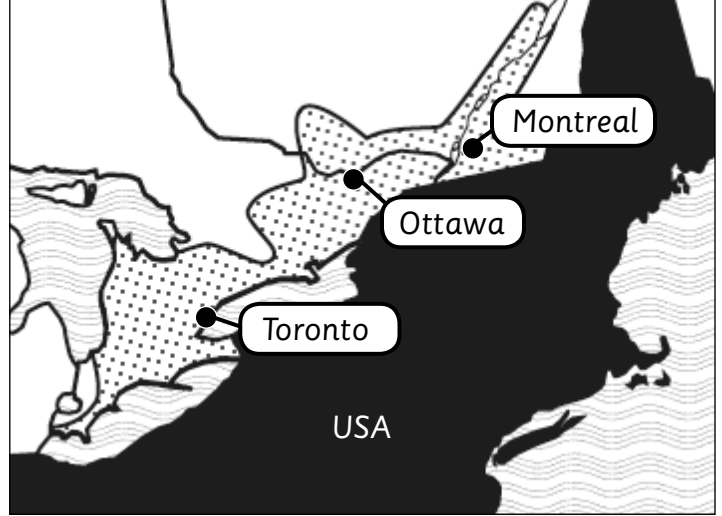
i) What province(s) provide the habitat needed for the wolverine?


ii) How have humans changed the wolverine's habitat?





Name: _____



 Historic American ginseng range

3. American Ginseng

American ginseng is an herb with a root that looks like a gnarly yellow carrot. It's widely used as an herbal remedy. First Nations people use it to treat coughs, headaches, rheumatism and fevers. In Canada, ginseng grows in moist, undisturbed woods. It's threatened because we harvest so much of it, and because we've cut down so many forests for logging and to build farms, cities and towns.

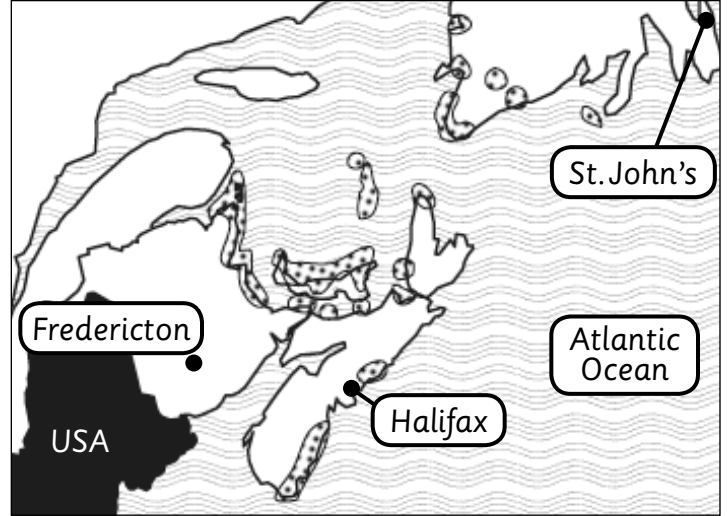
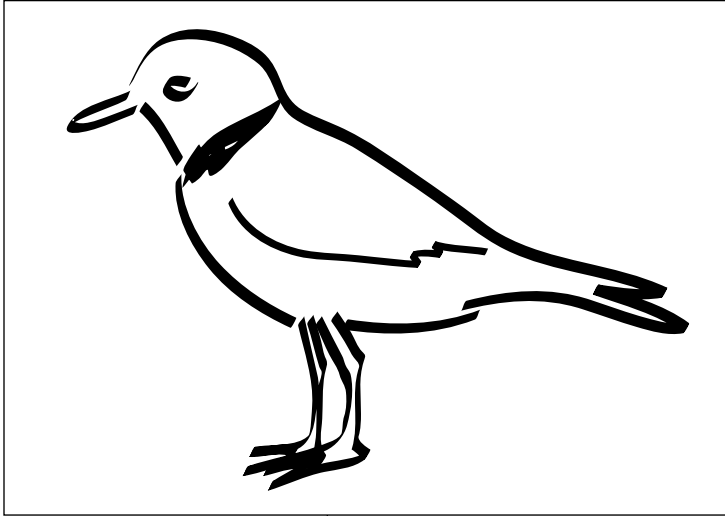
i) What province(s) provide the habitat needed for American ginseng?


ii) How have humans changed the American ginseng's habitat?





Name: _____



 Historic piping plover range

4. The Piping Plover

The piping plover is a small shorebird that blends into the colour of dry sand. It has a black collar, a black band on its forehead and black tail feathers. Its legs are bright orange. Its beak is orange and black. It lives on beaches across Canada. On the east coast, the piping plover is threatened by the human use of beaches. Global warming may also affect its habitat if Atlantic beaches become flooded.

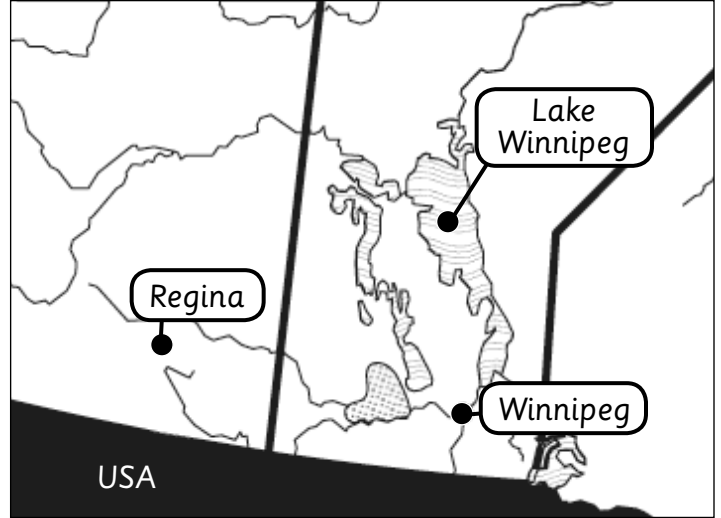
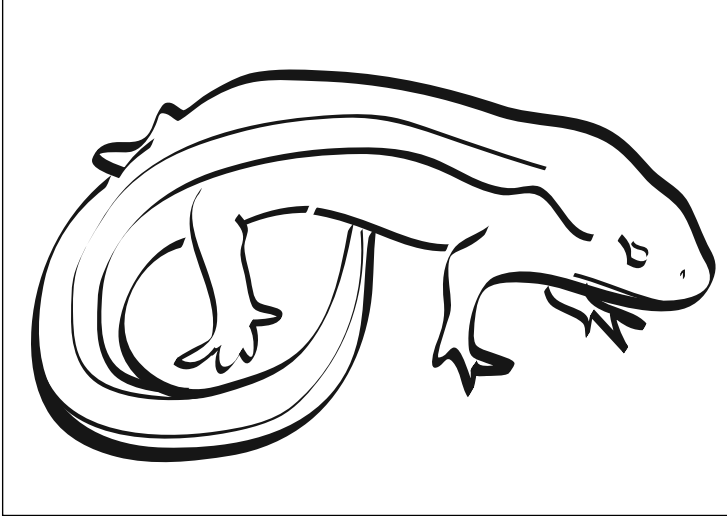
i) What province(s) on the east coast provide the habitat needed for the piping plover?


ii) How have humans changed the piping plover's habitat?





Name: _____



 Historic prairie skink range

5. The Prairie Skink

The prairie skink is a small, striped lizard. Its body is brown with seven light stripes on its back and sides, and it has a bluish-grey tail. In Canada, the prairie skink lives in sandy areas near rivers and swamps. Extreme cold weather can limit the population of prairie skinks. They have also lost much of their habitat where we've built farms, towns and cities.

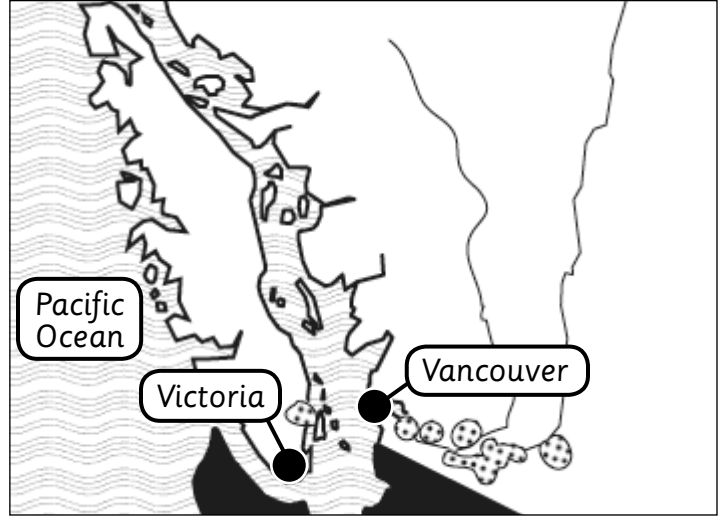
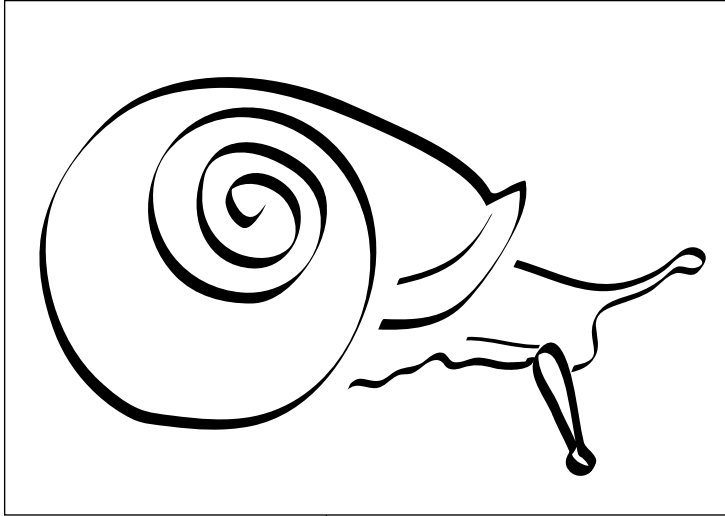
i) What province(s) provide the habitat needed for the prairie skink?


ii) How have humans changed the prairie skink's habitat?





Name: _____



 Historic Oregon forestsnail range

6. The Oregon Forestsnail

The Oregon forestsnail is one of a large group of land snails found only in North America. Its pale brown and yellow shell can grow as big as 35 mm in diameter, making it one of the largest snails in Canada. They live in lowland forests with lots of ground vegetation. The Oregon forestsnail is threatened because its habitat is in an area that has been changed by human activities like logging and the building of farms, towns and cities. They often get crushed in areas of heavy logging, and can be killed off by the use of pesticides. Because this delicate snail needs such specific conditions to live, it can't easily adapt to a changing habitat. If it's not protected, it will soon become extinct.

i) What province(s) provide the habitat needed for the Oregon forestsnail?

ii) How have humans changed the Oregon forestsnail's habitat?

Canon



> **Section B) Endangered Species Around the World**

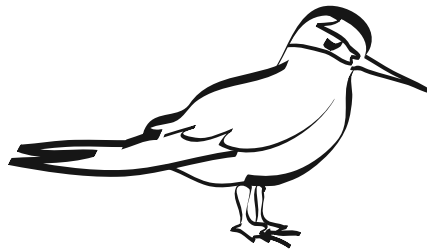
Because humans have developed so much of the earth, we lose about one to three species a day. We need to protect endangered species and their habitats. Here are some endangered animals from various continents and continental waters around the world that WWF is working to protect.



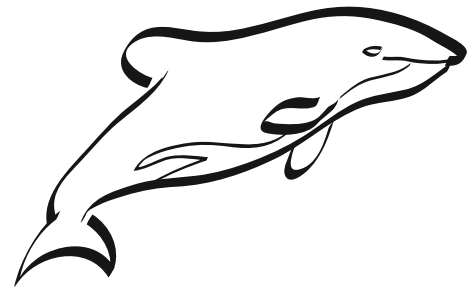
Fin Whale (North America)



Giant Panda (Asia)



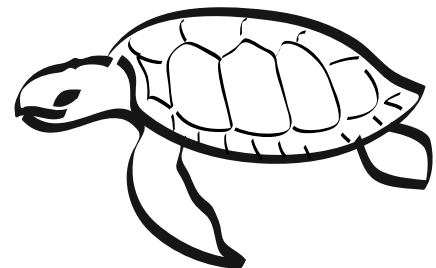
Peruvian Tern (South America)



Hector's Dolphin (Australia)



Tiger Chameleon (Africa)



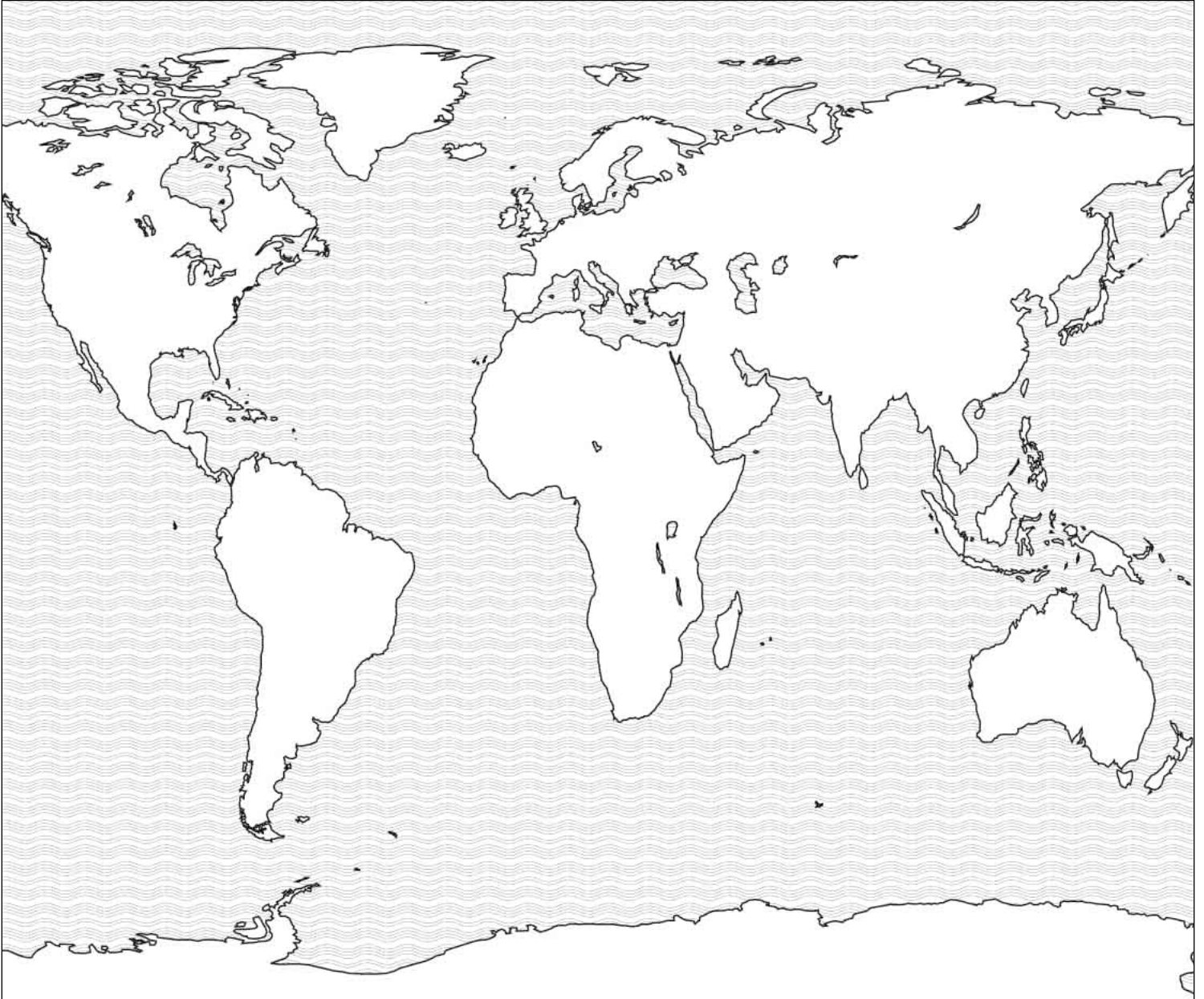
Loggerhead Turtles (Europe)



Name: _____



Endangered Species Around the World



Write the name, and draw a picture of each of the endangered species in the continent where they live.





Answers: Mapping Canada's Critters

Section A) Endangered Species Across Canada

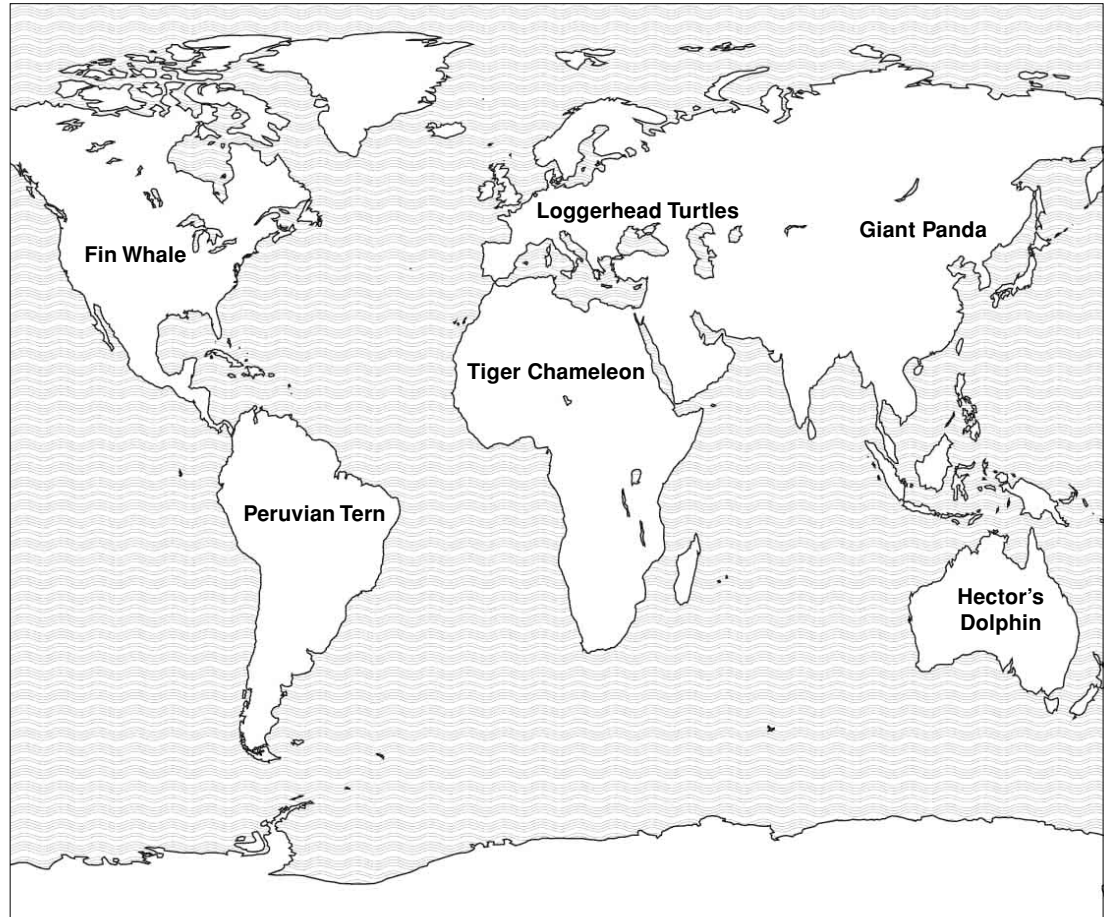
1. The Swift Fox
 - i) Alberta, Saskatchewan
 - ii) Open – grasslands converted to farms. Often hunted, trapped and poisoned by farmers.
2. The Wolverine
 - i) Quebec, Newfoundland
 - ii) Open – hunted for its fur in the 19th century. Dwindling caribou populations and the development of land for farms and towns.
3. American Ginseng
 - i) Ontario, Quebec
 - ii) Open – we harvest so much of it, and because we've cut down so many forests for logging and to make room for farms, cities and towns.
4. The Piping Plover
 - i) Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, P.E.I.
 - ii) Open – threatened by the human use of beaches. Global warming may also affect its habitat if Atlantic beaches get flooded.
5. The Prairie Skink
 - i) Manitoba
 - ii) Open – lost much of their habitat where we've built farms, towns and cities.
6. The Oregon Forestsnail
 - i) B.C.
 - ii) Open – its habitat is in an area that has been changed by lots of logging, farms, towns and cities. They often get crushed in areas of heavy logging, and can be killed off by the use of pesticides.





Answers: Mapping Canada's Critters (continued)

Section B) Endangered Species Around the World



Note: species status based on global population. (www.iucnredlist.org)

Canon