

ORANGUTANS FACE EXTINCTION

Article by Harriet Cook – Year 6

For many years now, the orangutan has been under the threat of extinction. These apes can often be located in the jungles of Borneo and Sumatra, but now the sightings are decreasing.



Why are orangutans endangered?

Deforestation is one of the biggest threats towards orangutans. This is because palm oil plantations are destroying their habitat. This is leaving them with no-where to go. Another major threat towards orangutans is poaching. Although poaching is illegal, many people still believe it shouldn't be. It remains a danger because many orangutans are killed because of this inaction. This is one of the reasons why the numbers have dropped so dramatically.

What can people do to help?

There are many things you can do to help the plight of the of the orangutans. One of the main things you can do to help, is to be aware of palm oil and what it can do to the environment. You could also look at the labels of your products (although palm oil isn't labelled as an ingredient) and double check it is rainforest-friendly. Unfortunately, palm oil is in almost everything you could buy, but being vigilant will help. Another thing you could do to help is to donate money to a charity called the Orangutan Foundation. This will help the islands of Borneo and Sumatra to save their orangutans and provide refuge for orphans in the jungle.

Why should YOU care?

Orangutans are very close to our own human DNA - sharing 98% of it. If we don't take action, our orange apes may become even more endangered. If our orangutans become extinct, then we will have lost one of the few creatures that is so very close to us.

“If we lose our orangutans, the world will be a completely different, and very sad place”