

# Eco-Talk Animal Explorer Board

## AAC Tool

### Material needed:

- Digital design software (such as Canva, Microsoft PowerPoint, Google Slides)
- Online image resources (royalty-free image websites)
- Large cardboard or large sheets of paper
- Printed pictures or pictograms of animals (from magazines, books or printed from online sources)
- Markers, crayons or coloured pencils
- Glue or tape
- Labels or cards for animal names

**Key competence:** Literacy

### GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The objective of creating digital AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) boards centred around animals alive, extinct, and endangered is multifaceted. It aims to integrate literacy development with environmental education, fostering a deeper understanding of wildlife conservation among children. By utilising visual aids and interactive elements, the tool seeks to



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enhance vocabulary acquisition, promote empathy towards endangered species, and empower children to engage meaningfully in discussions about conservation efforts.

## HOW TO USE IT

Categories on the Board:

- Thriving Species
- Endangered Species
- Extinct Species

### 1. Introduction:

Introduce the digital AAC boards to children, explaining the three categories: animals that are alive, extinct, and endangered. Discuss the importance of biodiversity and the impact of human activities on wildlife populations.

### 2. Interactive Exploration:

Encourage children to interact with the boards by selecting pictograms of animals. Prompt them to name each animal, discuss its characteristics, and categorise it according to its status (alive, extinct, or endangered).

### 3. Language Development:



Facilitate language development by using labels or text boxes with each pictogram. Encourage children to articulate the names of animals and discuss their attributes, fostering verbal expression and comprehension.

#### 4. Empathy Building:

Engage children in discussions about endangered species, their habitats, and conservation efforts. Encourage empathy by exploring the reasons behind endangerment and brainstorming actions to protect these animals.

#### 5. Creative Expression:

Promote creativity by allowing children to personalise their boards. They can add drawings, additional information about animals, or suggestions for conservation activities.

## HOW TO CREATE IT

### Digital Platform Selection:

Choose a user-friendly digital design tool such as Canva, Google Slides, or Microsoft PowerPoint. These platforms allow for easy creation and customization of digital AAC boards. You can also use [Picto4me](#), a simple but powerful web app that allows you to quickly create, play, share and chat with ACC Pictograph Boards.



### **Content Selection:**

Search for and select high-quality images or pictograms of animals that fit into each category (alive, extinct, and endangered). Ensure the images are clear, visually appealing, and appropriate for children.

### **Layout and Organisation:**

Create separate slides or pages for each board category (alive, extinct, and endangered animals). Arrange the images in a grid format or as desired, leaving space for labels or text boxes.

### **Labelling and Customisation:**

Label each image with the name of the animal to support literacy development. Customise the boards by adding colour-coded backgrounds or interactive elements like clickable links for additional information.

### **Testing and Adjustment:**

Test the functionality of the digital AAC boards to ensure accessibility and usability for children. Adjust as needed based on feedback and usability testing.

### **Implementation:**

Introduce the completed digital AAC boards to children during structured learning activities or free exploration time. Guide their initial interactions with the tool and encourage ongoing use to reinforce learning and engagement.



## HOW TO CREATE IT A NOT-DIGITAL VERSION

### Materials Needed:

- Poster board or large sheets of paper
- Printed images or pictograms of animals (from magazines, books, or printed from online sources)
- Markers, crayons, or coloured pencils
- Glue stick or tape

### Steps to Create AAC Communication Boards:

#### 1. Planning and Preparation:

Decide on the categories for your boards: animals that are alive, extinct, and endangered. Discuss with children the differences between these categories and why they are important.

#### 2. Gathering Images:

Collect printed images or pictograms of animals that fit into each category. These can be cut out from magazines, wildlife books, or printed from online sources.

Ensure the images are clear, recognisable, and age appropriate.

#### 3. Creating the Boards:

Use a large poster board or separate sheets of paper for each category (alive, extinct, and endangered animals).



Arrange the images on each board, grouping them according to their category.

Leave space around each image for labelling and interaction.

#### 4. Labelling and Categorising:

Write or print labels for each animal name. You can use index cards or small pieces of paper to write the names clearly.

Place the labels near or below each corresponding animal image to support literacy development and recognition.



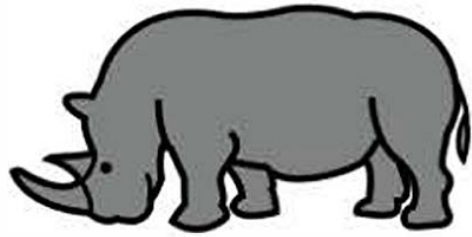
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# Endangered Species



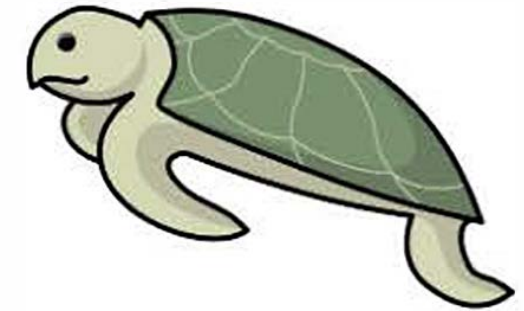
Rhino



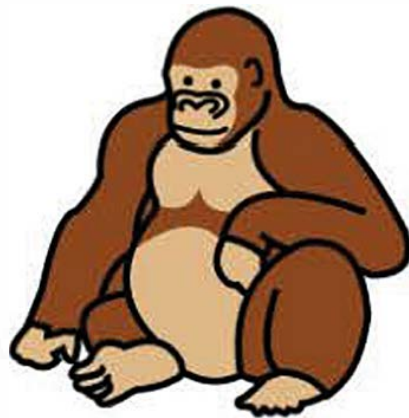
Orangutan



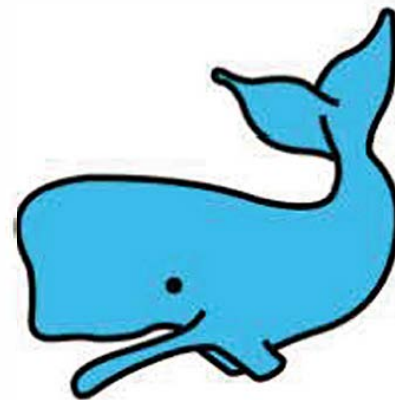
Leopard



Turtle



Gorilla



Blue Whale



Antelope



Otter



Panda



Koala



Polar Bear



Chimpanzee



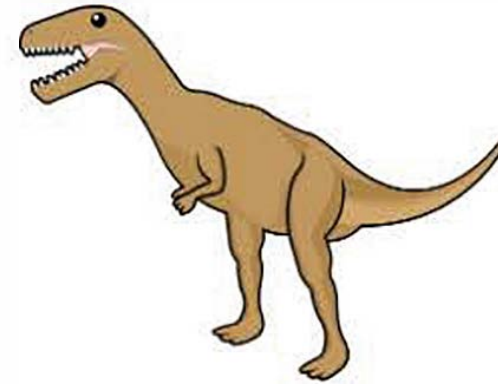
# Extinct Species



Pigeon



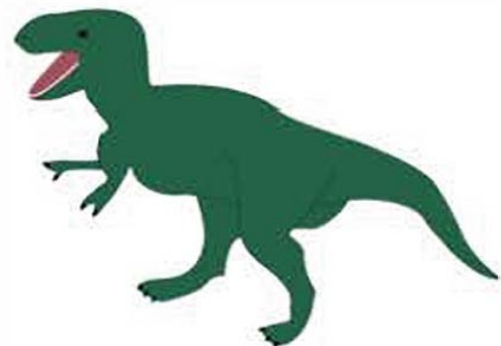
Mammoth



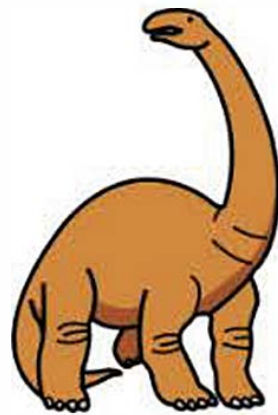
Velociraptor



Java Tiger



T-Rex



Brontosaurus



Golden Toad



vulture



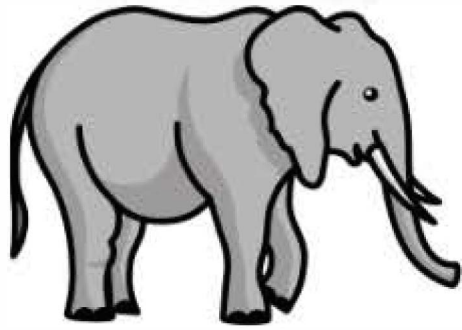
Dodo Bird



Carolina Parrot



# Thriving Species



Elephant



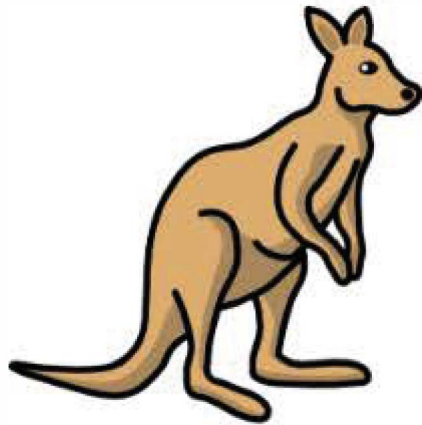
Tiger



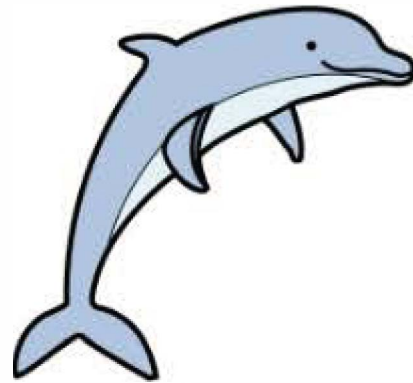
Eagle



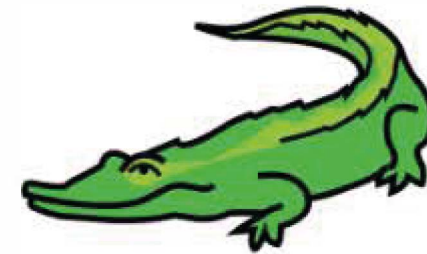
Whale



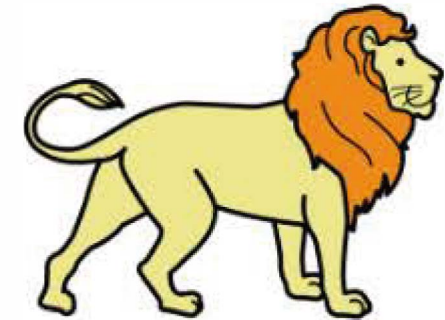
Kangaroo



Dolphin



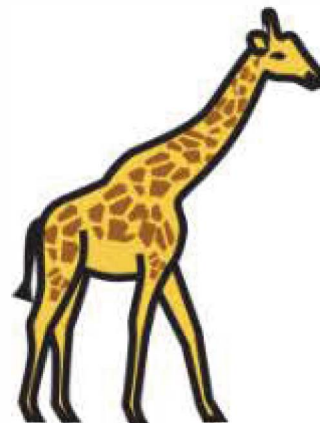
Crocodile



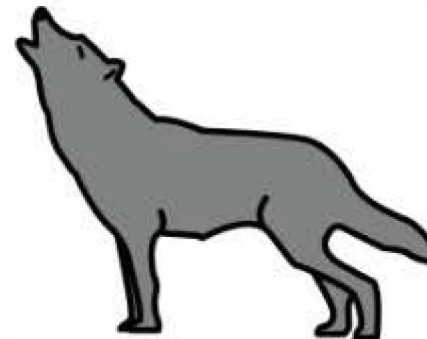
Lion



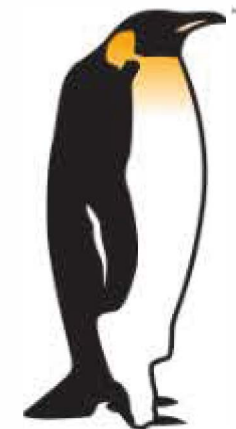
Zebra



Giraffe



Wolf



penguin