



The power
of plants

KEYSTAGE 3-4
SCIENCE



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INTRODUCTION



Here at Marks Hall Estate, we have many hundreds of varieties of plants and trees squeezed into 2,350 acres. This richness of plant biodiversity can only be found in a few places throughout the UK. Plant biodiversity underpins all life on Earth by providing food, oxygen and absorbing carbon dioxide.

Over 30 plant species were declared extinct in the last decade - in fact the number of plants that have disappeared from the wild is more than twice the number of extinct birds, mammals and amphibians combined.

One of our most prized tree specimens is the Wollemi pine, which dates from

the Jurassic period and was thought to be extinct. Discovered in 1994 in Australia, The Wollemi pine is on the 'critically endangered' plant list and is one of the world's oldest and rarest trees.



< Wollemi pine

In this activity, we would like to get you thinking about the main reason behind plant extinction, why it poses such a threat to biodiversity and therefore all life, and things we might be able to do to protect plant life for the future.


Read and watch about plant extinction **here.**



Please print out the following pages...

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Activity 1

Habitat Loss

One of the main reasons why plant and animal life is threatened is due to loss of habitat. What do you think the main reasons are for habitat loss, and why does it pose such a threat for plant life?

Tips and Resources:

Try searching online for 'the main reasons for habitat loss'
Visit the World Wildlife Fund page on [habitat loss](#).

Activity 2

Can you find an example of a plant or animal that has become extinct due to habitat loss? How do you feel about this?



Lovely blossoms.

What would you do...

...to prevent loss of natural habitats?

Tips and Resources:

Think about your local environment – how might you protect a local woodland, or even plants and wildlife in your garden?

Did you know?

Our collection of Wollemi pines is thought to be the largest in Europe, and we run an extensive conservation programme to protect its future. Find out more about our [conservation](#) work.

Activity 3

Name three other reasons why plants and animals can become extinct.

