



Endangered Species Brochure Content Template

The template below addresses the content focus for each of the four major content areas of the project. The **Front Cover** and the **Works Cited** sections are not included. Review the sample information for each section along with the checklist for each section. Both should give you some perspective on the kinds of information you need to pursue in your own research for each section of the required content. Use the other side of this template to begin formulating questions to pursue in your own research based on the general information you find on your animal and based on the content required for each section.

Introduction to the Species	Human Threat	Habitat	Solution
<p>Checklist</p> <p>___ Content should engage your reader</p> <p>___ Make sure you mention the scientific name</p> <p>___ Place the responsibility for this animals future on your reader</p> <p>___ Intentionally select though provoking facts.</p> <p>___ Replace this with a properly credited photo/picture</p>	<p>Human Threat</p> <p>Overexploitation and habitat loss are the primary threats to this species; however, commercial harvest for the food and pet industries have taken the most dramatic toll on existing populations of the turtle across its range.</p> <p>Humans have harvested the alligator snapping turtle as a food source for a long time, but the industry increased dramatically in the 60's and 70's when the Campbell's Soup Company began producing frozen turtle soup (Reed et al. 5). In fact, the turtle was such a popular ingredient in soup and picante sauce that some populations were completely wiped out (Conniff 120).</p>	<p>Checklist</p> <p>___ Define the geographic range of the species including major bioms and habitats</p> <p>___ Address relevant threats to the habitat</p> <p>___ Properly cite your facts.</p> <p>___ Replace this with a geographic map of the habitat</p>	<p>Solution</p> <p>This is where you want to focus on solutions that your research suggested may be of benefit to your species along with your own conclusions</p> <p>Your explanation should address the following questions among others.</p>
<p>Alligator Snappers Need Your Help!</p> <p><i>Macrocrays temminckii</i> or the Alligator Snapping Turtle is not the huggable creature that most of us find attractive. As Richard Conniff said it in his March '99 National Geographic Article <i>Swamp Thing</i>, "You would not put one in a petting zoo unless maybe you wanted the children to learn to count without their fingers"(Conniff 123). It may not be the friendliest of creatures, but it has made its home in the rivers and streams that drain into the Gulf of Mexico for millions of years before man ever stepped foot on this continent. Unfortunately, if decisive action isn't taken soon, man will be the reason that it disappears from the only place on earth that it naturally exists.</p> <p>Man is the sole reason this creature's future is threatened. Overexploitation and habitat loss have both placed a burden on this species from which it will not recover if we do not do more to regulate its harvest and preserve its natural habitat.</p> <p>ALLIGATOR SNAPPER FACTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largest freshwater turtle in North America. Lives only in US rivers, lakes, and streams that empty into the Gulf of Mexico. • Feeds mainly on fish, but will eat almost anything • Spends most of its life in the water leaving only to lay eggs. Females bury large clutches of white hard-shelled eggs in riverbanks every other year. • Sex of young is determined by the temperature in the nest • Adults reach sexual maturity between 11-13 years and may live more than a century • Larger than the common snapping turtle, with a much larger head and a vomitlike fishing lure on the surface of its tongue, with which it hoes fish directly into its mouth 	<p>The problem with the commercial harvest of this species is that these animals do not reach sexual maturity until they are 11 -13 years of age. Research indicates that harvest rates of 2 percent per year of adult females will result in significant population declines (US F & W 74701). In Georgia, three to four tons of alligator snapper were taken annually from the Flint River alone until it could no longer sustain the demand (Reed et al. 5), and TRAFFIC reported in 2000 that over 23,000 live, adult individuals were exported to Hong Kong and Japan for both food and for the pet trade (US F & W 74701).</p> <p>This level of commercial harvest cannot be sustained indefinitely, and altho ugh most states within its range offer some protection, Louisiana requires only a fishing license for the unlimited harvest of individuals at least 15 inches in length (Reed et al. 7).</p> <p>At this rate of commercial exploitation, our grandchildren will not know this species unless they read about it.</p> <p>The Problem</p> <p>Checklist</p> <p>___ Define the primary threat for the animal</p> <p>___ Use specific facts that illustrate that threat</p> <p>___ Use statistics that show how bad the threat really is</p> <p>___ Properly cite your information</p> <p>___ Replace this with a properly credited photo/picture</p>	<p>Threatened Habitat</p> <p>The range of the Alligator Snapping Turtle includes the southeastern coniferous forests and coastal grasslands from Texas to Florida and is limited to the rivers and streams that empty into the Gulf of Mexico. Although it extends as far north as Illinois, very few individuals are still found in the northern extremes of its range.</p> <p>Man has increasingly put pressure on this habitat. The World Wildlife Fund reported in 2001 that over 98% of the southeastern conifer forest has been c onverted to agricultural use or has been modified by urban development (Dinerstein).</p> <p>Commercial and agricultural development of the turtle's native habitat as well as river and bankside modifications that reduce nesting areas are greatly contributing to t he decline of the species (US F & W 74701).</p> <p>The human population in this region is booming, and along with it comes additional pressures on this habitat. "Runoff, water supply issues, suburban sprawl, unchecked road construction, unsustainable agricul tural and forestry practices, dams, mining, and pollution threaten the aquatic life that live beneath regions waters" (Dinerstein). The alligator snapping turtle is part of that mix.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What current conservation efforts are being made? • What else needs to be done? • What can government agencies do to help? • Why should anyone really care about the continued welfare of this species? <p>This is where you make your final persuasive call to action in the defense of this animal and its habitat.</p> <p>Make sure to end with a strong concluding statement that places both a sense of hope and responsibility on the reader. Their action or inaction will make a difference.</p> <p>You may format this font to best occupy the space.</p>



Question for Direction: Initial Background Research for Question Development

The first thing you need to do whenever you begin a research process is to familiarize yourself with general information on your subject. Consider the content areas below that your project will need to develop. Then, select a general reference source on your animal and read it. As you read, consider what you now know and what you need to find out with additional research. Record questions that you need to answer with additional research in each of the following areas.

Name: _____

Species: _____

You need several specific questions in each area to drive your initial research.

Introduction to the Species

This is where you introduce your species and the challenges it faces for its future. Your content must contribute to your reader's interest and sympathy by combining some general background with interesting and thought provoking facts.

This section will also contain the equivalent of your thesis statement.

Attack the Issue!

The Problem

This is where you define the primary factors that are threatening the survival of your species. Search for very specific information that **shows just how bad the problem really is.**

Learn the terms that are used to describe the problem and find examples in your research that paint a measurable picture of the impact that this problem will have on the future of your species if action isn't taken. (The needed action will relate to Solutions you suggest in the last section.)

Bring It!

Habitat

This is where you describe the biome where this animal lives. You should become an expert on both the place and the challenges for animals living in this place. You will go beyond your species here and focus on the land or marine environment.

Habitat loss is a contributing factor for many endangered species. Look for statistics that show just how much of a problem this may be for your species.

Bring It!

Solutions

This is where you show your reader what is currently being done to help your animal and why even more needs to be done. Use the work of conservation organizations for this animal and its habitat to suggest solutions that will make a difference.

Finish with a thought provoking point addressing why your reader should care enough to actually become involved and do something that will make a difference.

Close the Deal!