

# Arizona Wildlife Podcast Comprehension Activity

## Episode 3: Threatened and Endangered Species

**Part A:** Each statement below is incorrect. Determine what is wrong with each one and make changes so they will be correct.

1. ~~Black-footed~~ (California condors) ferrets are scavengers.
2. ~~Arizona~~ (California) has banned the use of lead shot.
3. Mexican gray wolves, California condors, and ~~bald eagles~~ (black-footed ferrets) have all been reintroduced in Arizona.

**Part B:** List at least two benefits and two problems with each item below. *Note: Answers are just some possible examples. Additional answers may be acceptable.*

1. Dams. Benefits: Increased recreational opportunities, increased tourism, increased revenue, hydropower, employment. Problems: Lowers water flow downstream, changes water chemistry, destruction of habitat.
2. Off-highway vehicles. Benefits: Increased recreational opportunities, increased revenue, chance to explore unique environments. Problems: habitat destruction, species loss, costly and difficult to enforce.
3. Water catchments. Benefits: Reliable water source for wildlife, replaces water lost through other human activities. Problems: Increased disease transmission, entices predators, increase non-native species, can be difficult to maintain, animals may become reliant.
4. Reintroductions of endangered species. Benefits: Restores wildlife populations decimated by human activity, restores ecosystems, intrinsic value of each species. Problems: Extremely costly, environment may no longer be suitable.

**Part C:** Answer each question below in complete sentences. The answers are not necessarily included in the content. They may require some critical thinking.

5. When looking at diet, the black-footed ferret is considered a specialist while the coyote is considered a generalist. What does that mean? Which one is more likely going to be able to survive environmental changes? Why?

Specialists depend on only one (or limited) food source while generalists survive off a variety of foods. Generalists are more likely to survive changes because they have more food choices. If the change destroys the sole food source for a specialist, they likely won't adapt fast enough.

6. Why is it important to establish multiple populations during the reintroduction of a species? Multiple, separate populations insure that if some regional catastrophe (say a disease or drought) kills off the local population, the entire species does not go extinct.

7. Why are so many reptile, amphibian, and fish species at risk in Arizona?

Because Arizona has so many unique reptile species, collectors from all over the world come to the state. Often, these animals can be sold for thousands of dollars. For amphibians and fish that rely on water, it is primarily the fact that most of Arizona's waterways have been altered or damaged in some way.