



WILD Kids



Endangered Animals of Arizona

There are over 70 threatened or endangered animals in Arizona. **Threatened** means that these animals could be in jeopardy in the near future. Populations are lower than they were historically or extremely local and small.

Endangered means that extinction is highly likely unless measures are taken quickly. Below are short natural histories of three endangered animals of Arizona.

Tarahumara Frog (Rana tarahumarae)

The Tarahumara frog is a medium size frog about 2.5 to 4.5 inches long. It weighs no more than 4 ounces (about the weight of 1/2 cup of milk). The Tarahumara frog has olive to brown bumpy skin, with darker spots on its back. Their hind feet are webbed and the ends of their toes have small discs. The discs help the frog grab onto wet and slippery surfaces (Tarahumara frogs are always found near water.). Preferring steep mountain streams, they sit close to the water, where they can jump to safety into pools. They eat insects, centipedes, scorpions and small fish. During cold months Tarahumara frogs **hibernate**, coming out in the spring and summer.

The Tarahumara frog is extinct in Arizona in the wild. One is left in captivity at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. In 1977, there was a large group of 600 frogs in the Santa Rita Mountains near Tucson. The last three frogs were seen in 1982. In 1983 a dead frog was found, but no others have been seen since that time. Reasons for the death of Tarahumara frog are not known. One guess is that the frogs were infected with a deadly disease. Other guesses include acid rain and pollution of the frog's streams.

Tarahumara frogs are named after the Tarahumara Indians of the Sierra Madre Mountains in Mexico. Both frogs and Indians live in the same **habitat**.

Tarahumara frogs are not listed by the federal government as threatened or endangered. Arizona Game and Fish Department lists the Tarahumara frog as endangered.

Sanborn's Long-nosed Bat (Leptonycteris sanborni)

Sanborn's long-nosed bats eat **nectar** from flowers. Their tongues are long and brush-tipped and act like a hummingbird's bill. They get nectar and pollen from the flowers of saguaros, organ pipe cactus and agaves (its favorite food source).

Sanborn's long-nosed bats fly from Mexico to Arizona in late spring. They fly back to Mexico in September or October. This process of traveling from winter habitats to summer habitats is called **migration**. While in Arizona, females all live together in **maternity colonies**, where babies are born in May and June. Maternity colonies may have 100 or more females and just as many babies. Females have only one baby a year. One maternity colony in Colossal Cave, near Tucson, no longer exists. The cave was opened to the public which disturbed the females. Electric fans were put in to make the cave more comfortable for people, but not for the bats. All the people and machines disturbed the bats so much that they left and have not come back.

Bats are among the most misunderstood and feared animals. They are constantly disturbed and killed. People's fears have caused them to poison bats and destroy **roost sites** (resting areas during the daylight hours) and maternity colonies. All of these things have led to the decline of many bats. But the greatest threat to Sanborn's long-nosed bat is agave harvesting. The growing demand of agave for food, liquor, and landscaping plants has left fewer agave flowers for Sanborn's long-nosed bats.

Both Arizona and the federal government list Sanborn's long-nosed bat as endangered. Some caves and mines on federal land have gates over the openings to keep people from disturbing bats. In Arizona, all bats are protected from collection, except by special permit.

Mexican Grey Wolf (Canis lupus baileyi)

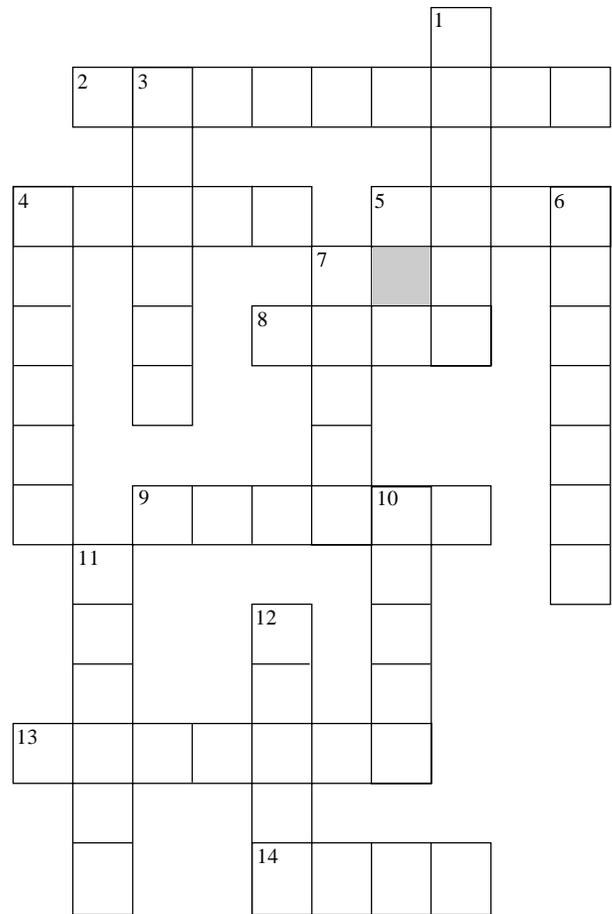
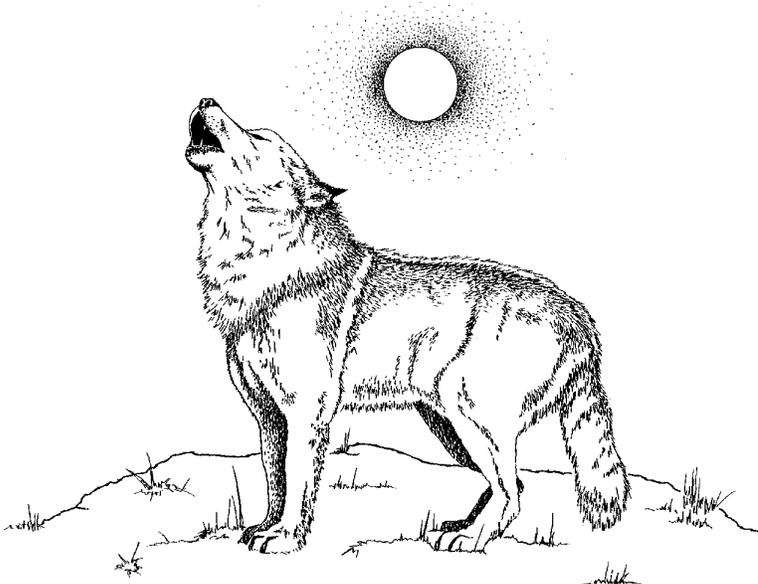
Several types of grey wolves lived in Arizona before 1930. All have disappeared in the wild in Arizona. The Mexican grey wolf can still be seen in Arizona, at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Tucson, and at the Phoenix Zoo.

Mexican grey wolves are **social** animals. They like each other's company. They live in small groups, much smaller than their cousins in Alaska. Their small group size may be due to their small population size, smaller prey in Arizona, and possibly pressure from humans. Mexican grey wolves have a wide variety of behaviors, including howls that they use to "talk" to each other.

The Mexican grey wolf roamed all over Arizona, especially in the Upper Sonoran Oak Woodlands. Reasons for its decline include conflict with humans and their livestock (cattle), trapping, poisoning and hunting. Hunting was done by some cattle ranchers, the southwestern states and federal government wildlife agencies.

Today more than 40 Mexican Grey wolves are in **captive** breeding programs in the United States and in Mexico. Scientist think there are only a few wolves left in the wild in Mexico. The exact number is not known because scientists know little about wild Mexican grey wolves. Reports of wolves in southern Arizona may be individual wolves from Mexico or just wild dogs.

The Mexican grey wolf is listed as endangered by both Arizona and the federal government.



ACROSS

2. Tarahumara frogs can eat this animal that has a stinger on the end of its tail.
4. All frogs need this to live.
5. Tarahumara frogs have a _____ on the end of each toe.
8. Mexican wolves _____ to "talk" to each other.
9. Sanborn's long-nosed bats eat _____ from flowers.
13. One reason Tarahumara frogs may be endangered.
14. Sanborn's long-nosed bat's tongue is _____ .

DOWN

1. Mexican wolves are _____ animals.
3. Mexican wolves are predators of _____ .
(It got them in trouble with ranchers.)
4. Tarahumara frogs have _____ hind feet.
6. Mexican wolves are now in a _____ breeding program.
7. Sanborn's long-nosed bat's _____ sites are being destroyed.
10. Sanborn's long-nosed bats favorite source of nectar.
11. Sanborn's long-nosed bats travel from _____ to Arizona and back again each year.
12. Mexican wolves live in _____ groups, unlike their cousins in Alaska.