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BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

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June 2008



March - April 2008



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Why save worms?



Many beautiful animals, such as pandas and whales, are in danger of being killed off by human activity. Some people are working to save these creatures... but what about the less pretty species? We hear from an environmental expert who argues that we should put more effort into saving worms than pandas! Find out why, with Jackie and Elena.

This week's question: According to the IUCN - The World Conservation Union, how many species of plant and animal are in danger of becoming extinct?

- a) 207
- b) 1,082
- c) 16,306

Listen out for the answer at the end of the programme!

Listen

 Why save worms?

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Vocabulary from the programme

species

a group of plants or animals whose members are similar and can breed together to produce young animals or plants

conservation

protection of natural things such as plants or animals

Example: *Some people think the government should put more effort into conservation.*

in danger of extinction

at risk of disappearing altogether

Example: *Thousands of species are in danger of extinction.*

beneficial

good, it does something that helps

habitat

the place where the animals live naturally

an ecosystem

all the animals and plants in an area and the way in which they are related to each other and their environment

invertebrates

a living creature without a spine/backbone, such as a worm

Extras

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IUCN Red List*

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