

Conservation

How many [plants](#) and animals live near you? Probably more than you think. Just in one backyard lies a tiny universe of plants and animals that are all dependent on one another and the environment for survival.



Fun Facts for Kids All About Conservation

For example, you probably have earthworms in your [soil](#). The earthworms help keep the soil healthy so plants can grow. The plants feed many animals, including birds, [squirrels](#) and [rabbits](#). If you grow a garden, the plants may even feed you. The earthworms become lunch for [snakes](#), frogs and rabbits. Likewise, these small animals are eaten by predators, such as larger snakes, [coyotes](#), [owls](#), [fox](#) and [hawks](#).

If one part of this [ecosystem](#) is destroyed, everything else becomes unbalanced. For example, if the coyotes leave, the rabbits become too numerous. They eat all the plants – including your lovely garden. Soon, the rabbits are hungry, along with other animals. Maybe even you.

Now imagine the number of ecosystems found all over the world. Everywhere you look, nature is in delicate balance. Don't think because you're human and buy your food at a grocery store, you're not affected. Every living thing on the planet depends on other living things for survival.

What does Conservation mean? Conservation seems like a big word, but it is actually very simple. It means understanding nature's balance and not taking more than your fair share.

Fun Facts About Environment Conservation for Kids

- Governments work together to protect endangered species. They make it illegal to kill these animals or sell their furs and skins. Governments also set aside nature preserves where animals are always protected.
- Unfortunately, laws protecting animals only work if they're enforced. In some places, poachers illegally kill endangered animals, but are rarely caught.
- Reserves are a good idea, but only 12.1 percent of the Earth's land surface is covered by reserves. We need more to protect wildlife.
- You can practice conservation. Pick up trash. Follow the rules when you're hiking, camping or fishing to protect wild places. Don't leave the trails and don't take plants or animals.



Ivory Collected from Illegal Poaching



Nature Preserve



Kids Practicing Conservation by Picking Up Trash

Conservation Vocabulary

1. **Conservation:** using natural resources wisely
2. **Delicate:** Fragile
3. **Illegal:** against the law