

# Rachel Carson Centennial

## *Make an Endangered Species Quilt*

All living things, including humans, are connected to each other in a “web of life.” People and wildlife share the same space, food, water and shelter. If people destroy habitat by polluting streams and creeks with pesticides, the plants and animals that live in the waterway may die. What does that mean for people?

When we remove anything in nature, something else is affected. Endangered species are like fire alarms telling us that the critters in our environment are suffering, and people could be harmed too.

A great activity that visually captures the connectedness among all living creatures is a quilt. If one square is missing, the quilt is not complete and could fall apart. The same thing can happen with endangered species – if we lose plants and animals, then our environment is no longer complete.

### **Activity**

First, participants will need to learn about endangered species. Kids can focus endangered species in their area or endangered species all over the country. The Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species website is a great place to start researching information. Please visit <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/wildlife.html> to get started.

Participants should research information about where the species can be found, what it looks like, what kind of habitat it lives in and why it is in danger of extinction.

You’ll need 9 square blocks of plain colored cloths. Or, 25 square blocks of cloth for a larger quilt (good for an entire class).

Participants should use fabric paint, iron-on transfers or appliqués to decorate an endangered species onto each square. One square, the middle one, should be the human element. As each participant adds their square to the quilt, they should briefly describe their square and what they learned about the species depicted. After all the squares are laid, you can use bond the blocks together with fabric glue or by sewing them.

Then, hang the quilt up as a reminder of the “web of life” we are all a part of.

\*\*This activity can be modified for younger kids by using construction paper and markers instead of cloth and paint.

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**1 800/344 WILD**  
<http://www.fws.gov>

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