Handout #2:

THE TOP TEN ENDANGERED SPECIES IN THE WORLD

1. The Black Rhino
   - The most endangered species in the world
   - Numbers have increased 96% since 1970 due to poaching
   - Only approximately 3,610 remain in the wild today
   - Are only found in remote areas of south-eastern Africa
   - Can weigh up to 3,000 pounds and have two horns

2. The Giant Panda
   - Live in the Asian forests and eat mostly bamboo
   - Endangerment is due in part to habitat destruction and partly because of their shy nature and unwillingness to mate

3. The Bengal Tiger
   - Live among India and the Himalayas and other dry areas of Asia
   - Strictly carnivorous
   - Endangered because of heavy hunting due to fear from humans
   - There are probably less than 200 left in the wild today

4. The Beluga Sturgeon
   - Can live to be 100 years old
   - Are the producers of caviar
   - Mostly found in the Caspian Sea
   - Are endangered because of heavy poaching
5. The Golden Seal

- This perennial herb is endangered due to its high demand as a medicinal cure-all.

6. The Alligator Snapping Turtle

- Largest freshwater turtle
- Found all of the South East United States
- Eat almost anything
- Can live up to 70 years according to records
- Are hunted for their meat and body parts

7. The Hawksbill Turtle

- Live between the US and the Carribbean
- Eats mostly sponges
- Humans use their attractive shells for all kinds of decorations, which is why they are endangered.
- This decorative use is called "bekko" by the Japanese

8. The Bigleaf Mahogany

- Very valuable for its wood and averages $1300 per cubic meter
- Drives loggers to illegal foresting
- Obviously, the more giant trees that are cut down, the more energy is wasted and the more oxygen is being used up. These are some serious reasons why logging is such a huge concern.

9. The Green Cheeked Parrot
- Found in Northern Mexico
- Extremely intelligent
- Endangered because of careless captive handling and habitat destruction

10. The Mako Shark
- Can grow to be 12.5 feet long
- Live off the shoreline of US Rhode Island and Delaware and other New England States
- Have a short snout
- Are endangered due to heavy poaching

Reference:
http://tiger.towson.edu/users/agoodw1/top_ten_endangered_species.htm