



# Forever Wild in Virginia!

### Objectives:

1) Students will calculate the percentage of wildlife species in need of special conservation efforts; create a bar graph illustrating the percentage of each group of wildlife. 2) Students will choose one of the species located near their school and develop an action plan for that species.

### SOL Connections:

Science: 3.10, 4.8, 6.9, LS.11, LS.12

Math: 5.18, 6.18, 7.4, 7.6, 7.18

### Background:

Virginia has a wealth of wildlife resources. The management of the wildlife resource is the responsibility of the Commonwealth of Virginia and its citizens. To address the many challenges facing wildlife conservation and management in Virginia, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has developed a Wildlife Action Plan, ([www.dgif.virginia.gov](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov) or <http://bewildvirginia.org/wildlifeplan/>.) The primary goal of the Wildlife Action Plan is to keep common species common and prevent them from becoming endangered, while restoring those species currently on the Threatened and Endangered list.

Under guidance from the U.S. government, each state developed a Wildlife Action Plan similar to Virginia's that identifies those wildlife species of *Greatest Conservation Need*. In Virginia, that list includes 925 species representing all classes of wildlife including the 5 vertebrate classes: (mammals, birds, fishes, reptiles and amphibians) and several classes of invertebrates, including freshwater mussels and insects. The 925 species includes 131 species listed as Threatened or Endangered. These 131 species are given priority as long-term management plans are developed.

Below is a table listing the number of species in each classification that occur in Virginia and the number of those species which are in need. The complete list can be found on the website mentioned above.

1. Calculate the ratio of those species in conservation need to the total number of species in each class.
2. Calculate the percentage of each wildlife class listed.
3. Create a bar graph illustrating the number of species of concern and the total number of species in each class.
4. Choose a species from the list that is located near you and develop a school action plan to improve the local habitat of that species. The complete list can be found at <http://bewildvirginia.org/species/>

Virginia's Wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need				
Wildlife Classification	Total number of species in VA	Number of species of concern	Percentage of each classification	Ratio of each classification
Mammals	85	24		
Birds	374	96		
Amphibians	74	32		
Reptiles	61	28		
Fishes	210	97		
Freshwater Mussels	89	73		
Crustaceans	10,000+	61		
Aquatic Insects and other invertebrates	10,000+	158		
Terrestrial Insects and other invertebrates	10,000+	340		
Total # of species				

