

High School Students' Ideas About Endangered Animals

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Aim of the study: One of the most important factors affecting learning is the individuals' ideas about a topic. In this regard, students' ideas have become one of the main topics discussed in education. Students' ideas about endangered animals are of great importance both in biology and environment education. The main reason of this is biodiversity and increasing human effect on environmental problems. Respecting nature, enhancing life quality and protecting biodiversity in the earth are among the principles of sustainable society. Humankind's contemporary and future need for biodiversity is unavoidable. Therefore, it is very important to raise individuals who are conscious about maintaining biodiversity to protect its global richness. The purpose of this study is to reveal high school students' ideas about endangered animals.

Material and Methods: In line with this purpose, 273 high school students were given a measurement tool consisting of open ended questions. Data collected were evaluated according to the content analysis method.

Results: The results showed that students rather evaluated *Caretta caretta*, *Geronticus eremita* and *Ursus arctos* as endangered animals. Students also expressed that human activities were the main reason for endangered animals.

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Keywords: Student ideas, endangered animals, biodiversity education.