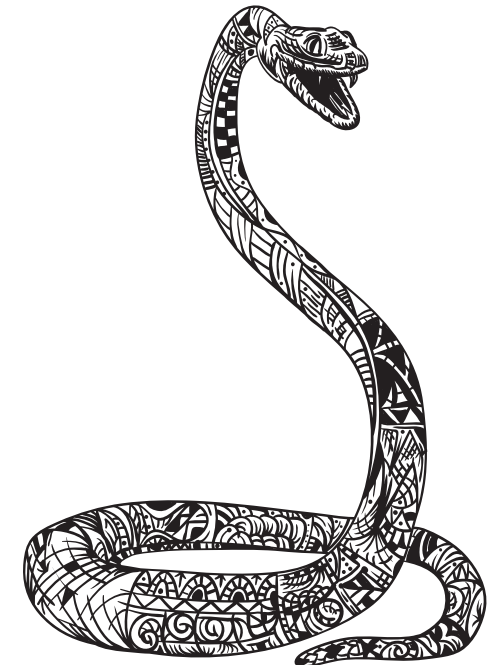
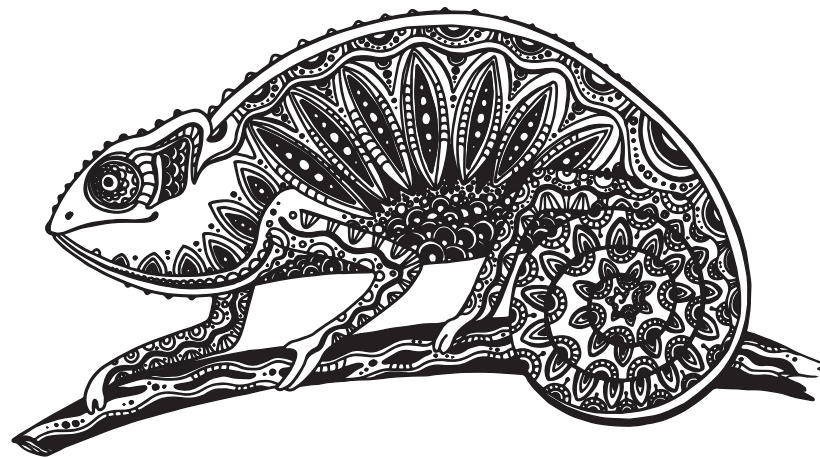
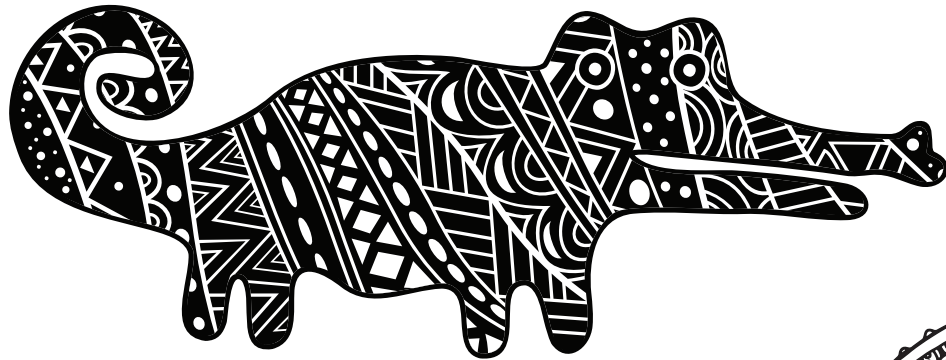
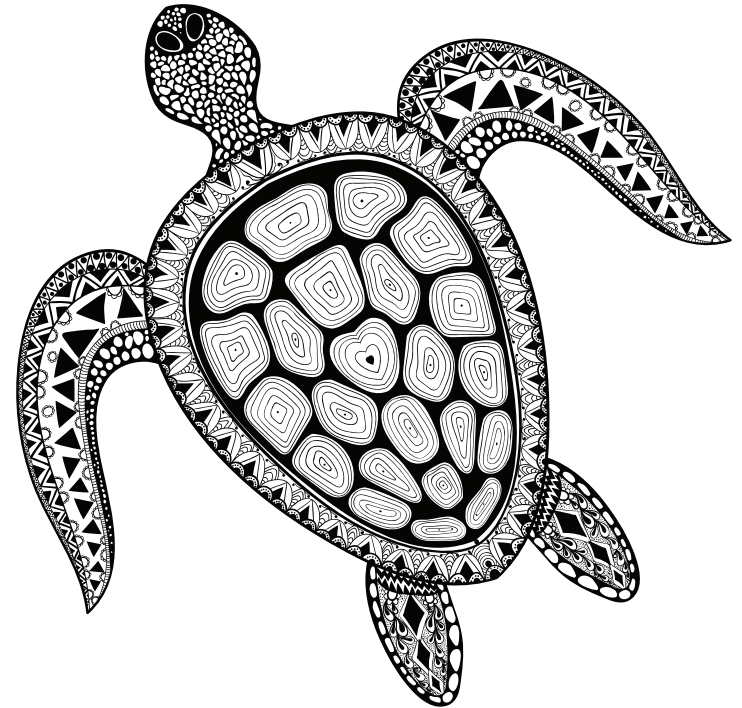


Endangered and Extinct Reptiles

Research Activity



Study***ladder***

Endangered Species of Reptiles

According to the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), as of September 2018...

** there are 26 reptile species and 12 reptile subspecies that have become extinct in recent years.*

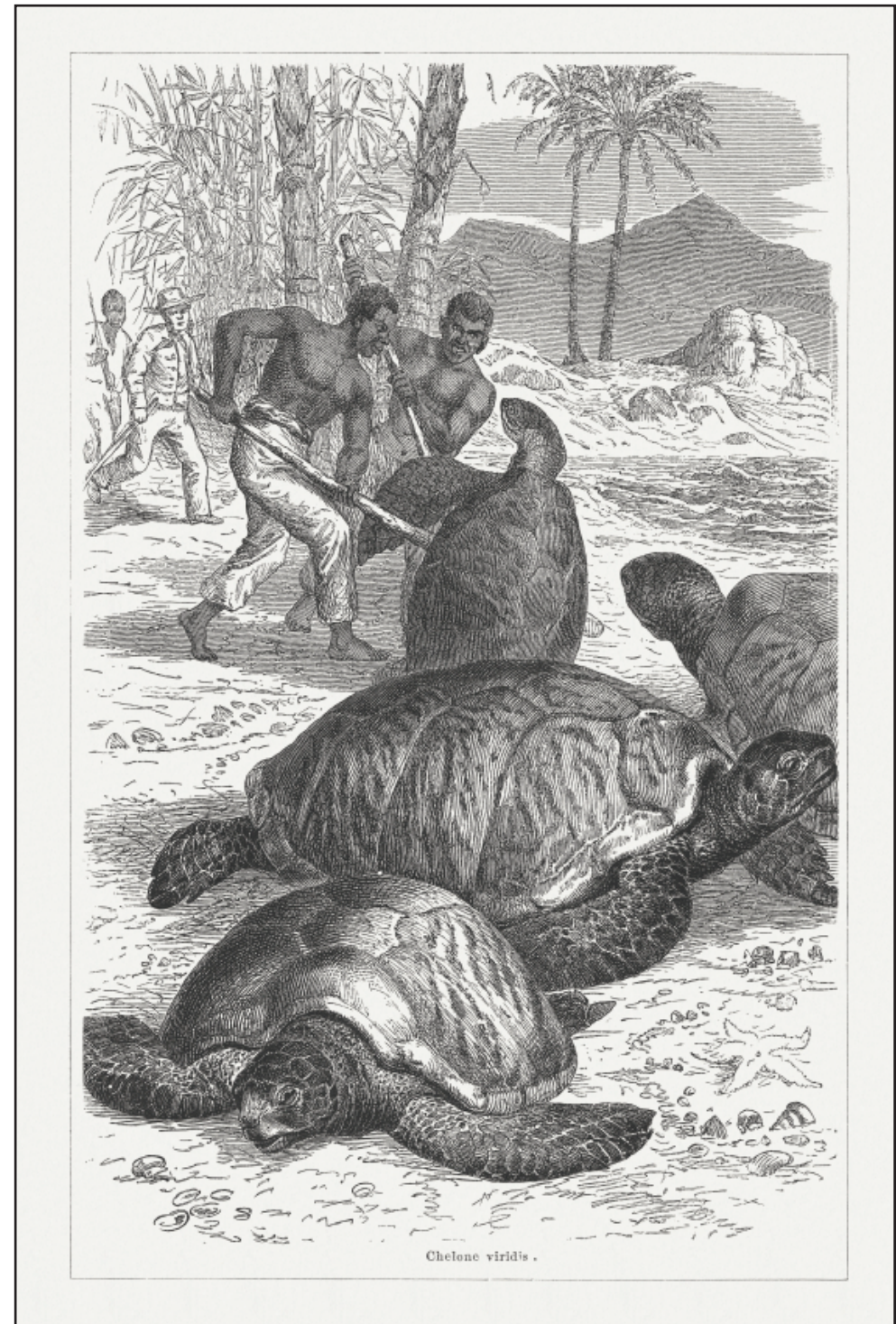
** there are 196 species of reptiles and 12 reptile subspecies that are considered to be critically endangered. This includes 17 species that are tagged as 'possibly extinct'. That's 3.8 % of all the reptiles living on our planet.*

** there are 382 species of reptiles and 9 reptile subspecies that are considered to be endangered. That's 7.4% of all evaluated reptile species.*



Recently Extinct Reptiles

What causes species to decline to the point of extinction?





Santo Stefano Lizard (*Podarcis sicula sanctistephani*)

Status: extinct

Last seen: 1965

Habitat and Distribution: The island of Santo Stefano, located in the Tyrrhenian Sea, off the west coast of Italy. Part of the Pontine Islands.

Cause of Extinction: Declined due to feral cats and a snake species. Remaining population wiped out by an unknown pathogen.

Studyladder



Pinta Island Giant Tortoise

(*Chelonoidis abingdonii*)

Status: extinct
Last seen: 2012



Similar species: Galapagos Giant Tortoise

Habitat and Distribution: Pinta Island (otherwise known as Abingdon Island) in the Galápagos Island group, in the Pacific Ocean west of Ecuador.

Cause of Extinction: By the end of the 19th century, most of the Pinta Island tortoises had been wiped out due to hunting.

Goats were introduced to the island in 1958 which resulted in diminished food supplies. (After a prolonged effort to eradicate the goats, the island was declared goat free in 2003.)

A single male was discovered on the island in 1971. He was named Lonesome George, and moved to the Charles Darwin Research Station on Santa Cruz. Attempts to mate him with other species were unsuccessful and he died of old age in September 2012.



Some of the Galapagos Islands, seen from the air.

Research Activity

Find an endangered or extinct reptile that appears in the
'IUCN Redlist of Threatened Species'

Research information about the reptile and present your findings to the class.



*Hawksbill Turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata), critically endangered.
Komodo National Park, Indonesia*

IUCN:
*International
Union for
Conservation of
Nature*

Website:
(<https://www.iucnredlist.org>)