

This week's focus is conservation

Many individuals are doing what they can. But real success can only come if there is a change in our societies and in our economics and in our politics.

People are not going to care about animal conservation unless they think that animals are worthwhile.



The question is, are we happy to suppose that our grandchildren may never be able to see an elephant except in a picture book?

Everyone likes birds. What wild creature is more accessible to our eyes and ears, as close to us and everyone in the world, as universal as a bird?

Sir David Attenborough – natural historian
and broadcaster

John Cairns, CC BY 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>>, via
Wikimedia Commons

Collaborative thinking

- Can one person make a difference, or is it better to work together?

Caring thinking

- Does finding out about animals show you care for them?

Critical thinking

- How many reasons can you think of for trying to save animals that are under threat?

Creative thinking

- How many different ways can you think up to CONNECT birds and humans?



Think AHEAD

What does the future hold for the world's animals?



Think BACK

When was the last time you did something for someone else?

For age 3 – 5 years



<https://youtu.be/Ge-cYtK8Qwl> - Let Nature Sing

The RSPB

A beautiful video and music track released by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds - RSPB – to help 'spread the word that UK nature is in crisis'.

Talking Points

- How many different birds can you hear? Count them using your fingers, but you might need more than two hands!
- Can you spot any birds that you think are the mummy birds and the daddy birds? And baby birds – chicks?
- What other animals fly?
- How can we help look after birds?

Activity

- Listen outside for the sounds of birds. Can you tell one bird from another from the sound of its song?
- Pretend you're a bird. Can you copy some of the bird sounds you hear where you live? Get help to find out the names of the birds.

Fun Activity

- Try making your own shadow animals.
- Find somewhere in your home that has shadows, or use a torch to shine onto your hands and make shadows on a wall.
- Hold your hand out flat, with your fingers on top of each other, then lift one or more of your fingers, like a mouth opening and shutting.
- Does it look like an animal?
- Experiment with other hand shapes.
- What animals can you make with one hand?
- Is it easier to make animals with two hands?
- Try making other things too. How about a tree?
- Or a house?
- Or a knife and fork!

- Now get adventurous!
- Make a bird with the wonderful Drew Colby here:
<https://youtu.be/MmLa-QFuwWs>



- Make a flock of birds with your family! Try other animals too – make a zoo!
- Drew's website:
<http://www.shadowgraphy.co.uk/431685363>

For age 6 – 9 years



<https://youtu.be/tvD4fRHstuU> - **The Lonely Dodo**
Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust

The dodo became extinct in 1681, less than 200 years after being first discovered. This video imagines what it must be like to be the last one, along with looking at other animals in danger of suffering a similar fate.

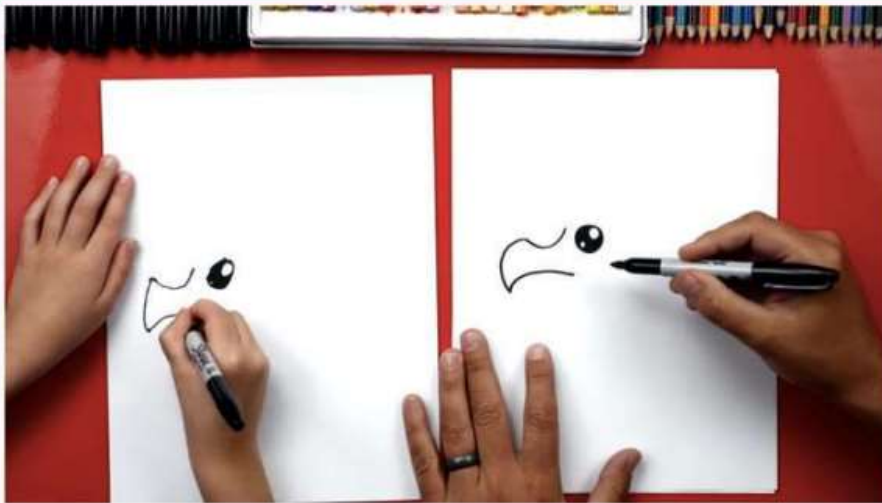
Talking Points

- Can you name all the animals you see in the video? Which is your favourite?
- The dodo is playing 'patience' – a card game for one person. What other games are for one person?
- The story is called 'The lonely dodo'. Do you think animals can feel lonely?
- Should we care whether animals become extinct?

Activity

- Find out what happened to make the dodo extinct. Look at a range of sources but here's one place to start: <https://youtu.be/cEuwDAAGTDQ>
- Can you find 10 animals (not including dinosaurs!) that have become extinct?

Fun Activity



<https://youtu.be/-RaZcKa17zg> - How to draw a dodo
Art for kids hub

Draw and colour a dodo – together! Here's a step-by-step guide to making a great dodo picture. Try it with someone else in your family, so you both make a picture, bit by bit.

- Turn your dodo picture into a poster to help convince others to care more for nature. Here's a poster from the World Wildlife Fund. You can find more here: <https://www.wwf.org.uk/get-involved/youth-groups/resources/explorer-poster-series#resources>



For age 10+ years



<https://vimeo.com/491113647> - **The turtle dove and its decline: RSPB**

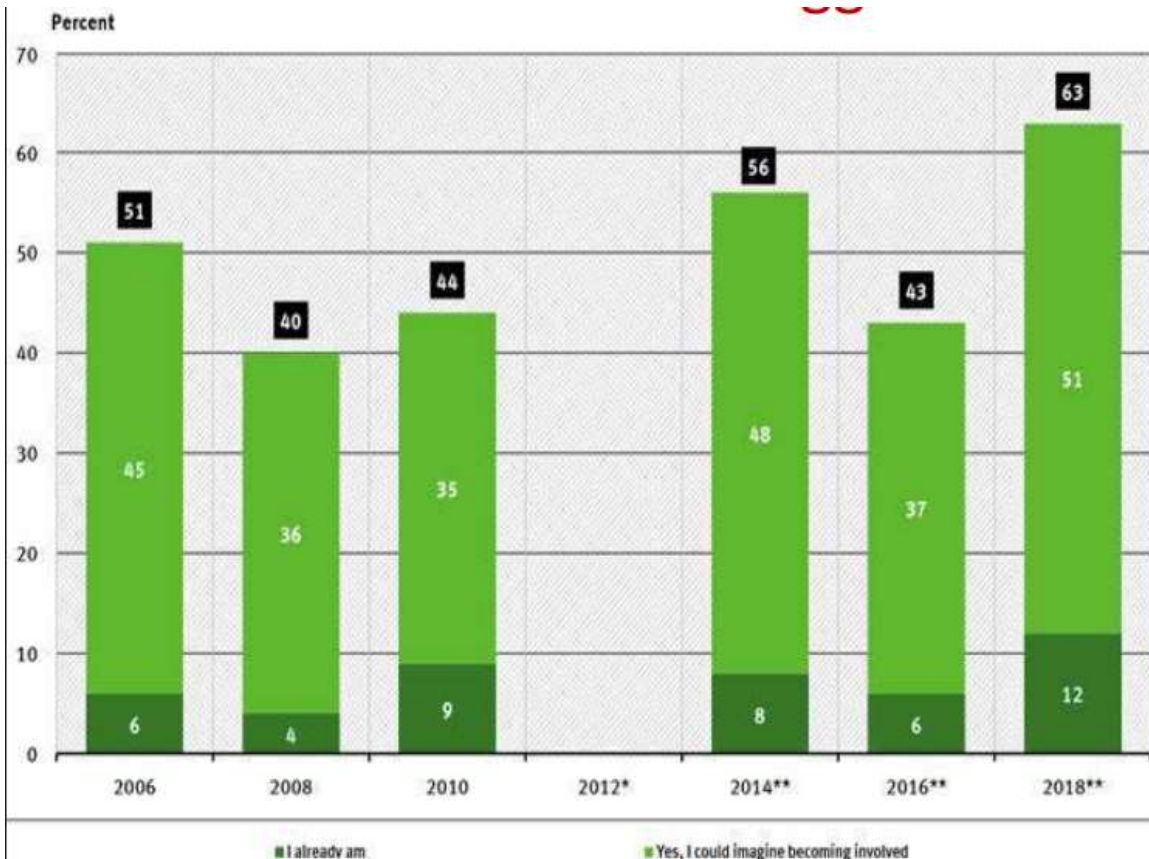
This edition of HomeTalk is issued on the twelfth day of Christmas – January 6th – and this video looks at one of the birds in the song 'The twelve days of Christmas'. The turtle dove is at risk of extinction so if we're not careful, we may be singing about a bird that is no more.

Talking Points

- How would you describe a turtle dove to someone who has never seen one?
- Is this a problem created by man or by nature?
- Why do you think people try to save animals that are at risk of extinction?
- Is it fair that only a small percentage of people take action to conserve animals?

Activity

- Find out which are the most endangered animals in the world. ZOOM in on the top ten and make a list.
- Make another list of the reasons why each is endangered.
- What could you say is the most common reason for these animals being in danger?



Percentage of the population actively involved in environmental protection and nature conservation

Source: Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety/German Environment Agency (Ed.), Umweltbewusstsein in Deutschland (various years; in German only)

Talking Points

- This shows the results of regular surveys in Germany in which people are asked whether they are actively involved in environmental protection and nature conservation or, if not, whether they would consider being involved
- Does the chart give any cause for optimism?
- What reasons could you suggest for there being such a difference between those currently involved and those who would consider being involved?
- What ways could you suggest to convince people to become actively involved?
- Here are two ways you and your school could start to be involved: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-teachers/schools-birdwatch/>