

Name: _____ Date: _____

Research Kit

Directions: Read the nonfiction article "Swarms of Terror" in the December 2017/January 2018 issue of *Storyworks*. Then follow the steps below, which will lead you on a research journey inspired by the article.

STEP 1: Reread the section of the article titled "Fading From Memory." Think about the role that humans played in the disappearance of the Rocky Mountain locust. Then consider the following question:

How can human activity cause or prevent the extinction of animal species?

This is the big question that will guide your research.

STEP 2: To explore this question, choose one of the two research paths below.

Research Path 1

Choose an animal that has become extinct in the past 150 years and find out why it disappeared.



You can pick one of the following animals:

- Passenger pigeon
- Caribbean monk seal

Or go online to find your own!

Research Path 2

Choose an endangered species whose numbers are growing and find out why it is doing better.



You can pick one of the following animals:

- Grizzly bear
- Bald eagle

Or go online to find your own!

STEP 3: Think about the questions you'll need to answer to complete your project. Then start to hunt for answers! Visit your school or public library and ask your librarian or your teacher to help you find nonfiction books about your animal. You can also search for information on the internet—but make sure you're using trustworthy resources, such as:

- Online encyclopedias that your school or public library subscribes to (e.g., Britannica Kids)
- Well-known newspapers and magazines (e.g., *The New York Times* and *National Geographic*)
- U.S. government websites (which have addresses that end in ".gov")

For this topic, you may want to use the sites of zoos and animal protection groups, like the World Wildlife Fund.

STEP 4: Turn the information you've collected into a dazzling final product! Select one of the choices below:

Choices for Research Path 1:

- 1) Write a nonfiction article for *Storyworks* magazine explaining how your animal went extinct and what lessons we can learn from its disappearance.
- 2) Make an infographic showing the causes and effects of your animal going extinct.

Choices for Research Path 2:

- 1) Write a short story from your animal's point of view, telling how you are being saved from extinction.
- 2) Make a video to raise awareness about how your animal is being saved and to convince people that they should help with the effort.