

# My Endangered Animal: Wildebeest



By: Michelle Devito and Class

## **Research Success Criteria**

1. Read your article first. Make sure you understand it!
2. Now, look at your question. Write down in point form, the research that ANSWERS the question ONLY. Do not write more!
3. You should have 5-6 points. If you do not have 5-6 points, research another article!

## **Success Criteria for Paragraph Writing**

1. Topic Sentence to introduce MAIN idea of paragraph.
2. Three-Six Supporting Details
3. Closing Sentence

## **Research**

### **How does the wildebeest look like?**

- the wildebeest looks like a bull
- it is 1.2 m to 1.4 m in size
- it weighs 265-550 pounds
- it is a herbivore, so I know it has flat teeth.
- the colour is black, brown, or tan.
- it has long, thin legs and a hairy face.
- it does not have fur. Scientists say it is hair.

## **Paragraph about How My Wildebeest Looks Like**

The wildebeest is a very interesting looking mammal. It looks like a bull. It is tan, black, or brown in colour. It has long, thin legs, and a hairy face. Scientists say it has hair, and NOT fur. It is 1.2-1.4 m in size. It weighs 265-550 pounds. It is a herbivore. I know herbivores have flat teeth, so the wildebeest must have flat teeth. That is how a wildebeest looks like.

## **Describe the HABITAT of the endangered animal.**

-the wildebeest lives in Africa

-the climate is warm all year. It cools down during the dry season, but is hot and humid during the wet season

-the changing African climate and seasons causes the wildebeest to migrate south because they want to continue to graze (feed) on grass.

-lives in the African Savannah, in the grass plains (called grasslands) where there is plenty of food for them

-there are plenty of thunderstorms and rain in Africa

- The wildebeest go in packs of 1000s and follow the rains across Africa. It is known as the Great Migration.

-it has plenty of trees and shrubs.

-in the community, large herds of animals graze on the grass and shrubs (giraffes, lions, crocodiles, zebras, ostriches etc.)

-the majority of savannah is covered in different types of plants (shoots, leaves,

-it has two seasons, the rainy season, and the dry season.

The Wildebeest lives in the African Savanna. The African Savanna has two seasons: the rainy season, and the dry season. It is hot and humid during the rainy season. It is cooler during the dry season. The African Savanna has many different types of trees and plants. There are shoots, leaves, a large variety of grasses, and more! Many herbivores live there because of the rich variety of plants and trees. Many carnivores live there too! There are lions, crocodiles, cheetahs, hyenas, and more! Therefore, the African Savanna has a rich community of plants and animals.

## **What are the structural or behavioural adaptations your endangered animal HAS or DOES to survive?**

-the changing African climate and seasons causes the wildebeest to migrate south because they want to continue to graze (feed) on grass.

-long thin legs make them run fast!

-thousands of wildebeest migrate at once, creating a stampede, so they don't get eaten by their predators.

-they can sense thunderstorms so they know when to migrate and follow the rain so they can eat the best grass and fresh plants

-the young wildebeest always stays close to the mother so they do not get eaten

-when danger is near, they call to each other using groans and then run together to create a stampede, both to run away from predators, and to scare them!

The wildebeest has only a few structural adaptations, but many behavioural adaptations for its survival. There are TWO structural adaptations that are important to its survival. The first one is its long, thin legs that enable it to run away quickly from predators. It also has a strong sense of smell, and can smell where the rainy season (thunderstorms) is. Because of the changing African climate and seasons, it will migrate south with thousands of wildebeest in order to follow the rain so it always has a good source of food (plants and grasses). Travelling in numbers and running quickly in stampedes are the TWO most important behavioural defences. When wildebeest are young, they stay close to their mothers. They are not solitary creatures. They will warn others when danger is near, using groaning calls, and then run in a stampede in order to get away, or scare their predators. These are the structural and behavioural adaptations they need to survive.

## **What does your endangered animal NEED to survive?**

Food---leaves, bamboo shoots, grass, many other plants.

Air---African Savanna has many trees. Therefore, lots of oxygen for it to breathe!

Light---wildebeest lives in a hot climate. The sun warms up the Earth, so it needs the sun to survive!

Space---they travel in herds of 1000s, so they need LOTS of space and grass to eat. The African Grasslands has plenty of space and plants!

Water---it has the rainy season. Wildebeest follows the rain and the water is from puddles, streams, and rivers.

The five necessities of life that the wildebeest needs to survive are: food, water, space, air, and light. For food, the wildebeest eats leaves, bamboo shoots, grass, and other vegetation. The African Savanna has a rainy season that the Wildebeest follows. Therefore, it has plenty of

water to drink from the streams and rivers in Africa. The wildebeest travels in herds of 1000. So, it needs plenty of space and the African Savanna has more than 90 000 hectares of grassland for the wildebeest to survive on! The air is full of oxygen because there are plenty of trees in the Savanna. The light from the sun warms up the Earth, so the Wildebeest can stay in a warm climate. That is what the wildebeest needs to survive.

**Why is your animal on the endangered list? What are the reasons/factors that are affecting their ability to survive?**

-the main reason the wildebeest is endangered is due to something called “habitat fragmentation”

-this means that they are building highways and roads in areas where the wildebeest would migrate! Wildebeest are the biggest mammal migration on the planet, and roads are blocking their way! They cannot reach the southern grasslands to eat good food!

-the highway that they are proposing to build in Africa is called the Serengeti Highway, which would be very big and block off the path for the wildebeest

**Level 4 Example**

The wildebeest is on the endangered list because of ONE main reason. This reason is called “habitat fragmentation”. Habitat fragmentation means that humans are dividing the habitat in many areas. They are building roads and highways that block the wildebeest from migrating south to find food. In Africa, the government wants to build a highway called the Serengeti. This

highway is what would cause the extinction of this animal. That is why the wildebeest is on the endangered list. Poor wildebeest!

### **What are humans trying to do to help your endangered animal?**

-there is an organization called the African Wildlife Foundation that is educating people about the wildebeest, and its needs.

-it is against the construction of the Serengeti highway.

-they help communities with planning their land so it doesn't destroy land that the wildebeest needs to survive.

-governments have rules that protect the wildebeest and other animals.

### **Level 4 Example**

There are many things that humans are trying to do to help the wildebeest survive and get off the endangered list of animals.

There is an organization called The African Wildlife Federation that helps communities in Africa get educated about the behaviour of the wildebeest, and what the wildebeest NEEDS are for survival. The federation is against the building of the Serengeti Highway. The federation also helps communities with their land planning so their planning does not affect the wildebeest. The African government also has rules that help

the wildebeest's survival. That is one way the wildebeest will hopefully get off the endangered animal list!

### **Introduction**

1. Write down an interesting fact or question that would be interesting enough for your reader to READ ON!
2. Write down TWO sentences that introduce your reader to the fact that your animal is in danger of extinction.
3. Write down the ORDER of your paragraphs.



Did you know that the wildebeest boasts the largest mammal migration on Earth? Unfortunately, this hairy wildebeest is on the endangered species list. It lives in the African Savanna. First, this essay will describe what the wildebeest looks like. Then, it will describe the habitat of the wildebeest and its structural adaptations. Next, it will describe what it needs to survive. Finally, it will describe why the animal is endangered, and what humans are trying to do to help the wildebeest get off the endangered animal list.

The wildebeest is a very interesting looking mammal. It looks like a bull. It is tan, black, or brown in colour. It has long, thin legs, and a hairy face. Scientists say it has hair, and NOT fur. It is 1.2-1.4 m in size. It weighs 265-550 pounds. It is a herbivore. I know herbivores have flat teeth, so the wildebeest must have flat teeth. That is how a wildebeest looks like.

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their mothers. They are not solitary creatures. They will warn others when danger is near, using groaning calls, and then run in a stampede in order to get away, or scare their predators. These are the structural and behavioural adaptations they need to survive.

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There are many things that humans are trying to do to help the wildebeest survive and get off the endangered list of animals. There is an organization called The African Wildlife Federation that helps communities in Africa get educated about the behaviour of the wildebeest, and what the wildebeest NEEDS are for survival. The federation is against the building of the Serengeti Highway. The federation also helps communities with their land planning so their planning does not affect the wildebeest. The African government also has rules that help the wildebeest’s survival. That is one way the wildebeest will hopefully get off the endangered animal list!

