

CAT 4 RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

GROUP 4-48

PROJECT **X**TINCT

Group members: Xiong Weizhou 2A1 (32)

Lum Xuan Yu 2A1 (21)

Henric Khua 2A1(13)

Chan Weibin 2A1 (3)

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ABSTRACT

Project Xtinct was a resource package created in order to spread awareness about endangered animals. Our resource is a fun, engaging and user-friendly board game that allowed players to learn more about Singapore's native endangered animals. This was a topic anyone hardly talked about or paid attention to therefore, our board game aimed to give useful information about these animals to the players such as their main characteristics, features, habits and vulnerability to extinction, which was indirectly stretching out a helping hand to these animals by raising awareness about them. On our game cards, there is information which players could read to gain a deeper understanding of these endangered animals, whereas the main goal in the game was to save and house as many endangered animals as possible in one's 'properties' which one might own. The information was also not very wordy and cramped together thus players would be able to read and understand them better. The cards also contained pictures which illustrated the animals and allowed players to visualise them better. Unlike other similar resources, our board game provided players with a short and concise summary of animal traits and behaviours. This allowed users to understand the animal easily without having to do extensive research about one particular animal with no additional knowledge due to the fact that many online websites had repeated information and did not actually have a brief overview of everything. With our resource package, players would be able to learn about native endangered species and why we need to preserve and protect their kind, thereby spreading awareness about endangered animals.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Rationale

Along with technological advancements, urbanisation causes deforestation as well as other side effects, causing extreme carbon emissions and carbon footprint. These all result in changes in animals' lifestyle due to the loss in habitat, extreme temperature change as well as climate change. These inevitably result in the death of many mammals, birds, reptiles etc. As a result of these deaths, certain species of animals are made now vulnerable to extinction, endangered, critically endangered or worse extinct in the wild. Although there are many websites which spread awareness about endangered animals, we have yet to find a single one which spreads awareness of Singapore's native species which are being threatened. Therefore, we decided to embark on this resource development project in order to spread awareness about endangered animals in Singapore as well as certain interesting facts about them.

1.2 Objectives

Our objectives specifically were to:

1. Spread awareness about Singapore's native endangered animals
2. Help to educate our target audience on:
 - Singapore's biodiversity
 - Impact of urbanization on these animals and their habitats which threaten them to the brink of extinction
 - Misconceptions on the status of certain endangered animals.

1.3 Target Audience

Our target audience is Secondary 1 and 2 students as they are at an appropriate age where they are able to understand and learn about endangered animals.

1.4 Resources

The resource created is a board game which comprises of various information on endangered animals, namely, status, size, population and mass. These gives people an overview as well as a gauge for the actual size and appearance of these animals.



Youth Olympic Park
Exclusive animal: Greater Slow Lloris

With 1 animal :	\$40,000	With Habitat:	
With 2 animals :	\$45,000		
With 1 enclosure :	\$50,000		\$85,000
With 2 enclosures :	\$55,000		
With 3 enclosures :	\$60,000		
With 4 enclosures :	\$65,000		
With 5 enclosures :	\$70,000		

PALM CIVET

Price: \$20,000

The Common Palm Civet is also known as the Toddy Cat. Its main characteristics include greyish brown fur with black spots.

Status: Least Concern

Mass: 3.9 kg Length: 53 cm

Population: Common

LUCKY DECK

You have been awarded an endangered animal for your animal saving efforts. Put this animal in one of your enclosures

LUCKY? DECK

2 REVIEW

Online websites contain lengthy scientific essays which can be straining and hard to understand. Online websites also use complex and specific words which some others may not be able to understand. Therefore, they were not feasible for the general public to read. There were also websites displaying information about these animals, but most of them were not focusing on endangered animals and the displayed information was placed all around the place, for example, the NParks website that does not have a collated list of endangered animals. Therefore, we provided a more concise and neat manner for users to read from using simpler terms which everyone could understand easily, and also a colourful board game that could attract more of our target audience and provide them with an interactive way to learn about Singapore's native endangered animals.

3 METHODOLOGY

We have employed a mix of primary and secondary data collection in order to ensure that our game is relevant, factual and most importantly, engaging to our target audience.

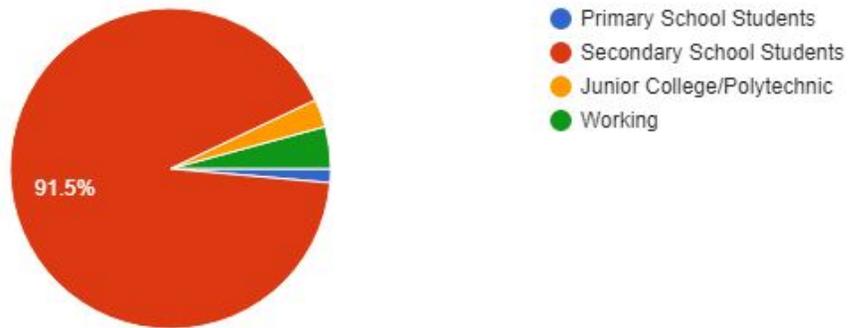
3.1 Needs Analysis

A needs analysis was conducted to ascertain the relevance of our project. Firstly, a survey was conducted to see if people saw the endangered animals as important as well as whether or not the respondents are in our target age group. Those responses who were not in our target age groups were eliminated and not taken into consideration. The feedback confirmed the need for such a resource as we could see the various misunderstandings and misconceptions they had about Singapore's native endangered animals, whereas over 90% of the respondents, who were mainly made up of people from our targeted age group, agreed that there was a need to protect these animals. We also asked some of our friends on their views on our project and most of them confirmed the feasibility as well as requirement for our project.

3.2 Survey Results

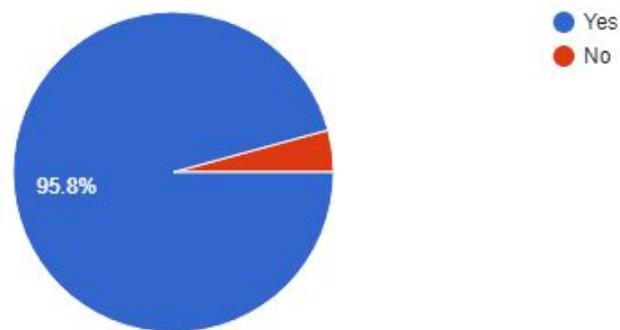
What is your age group

71 responses



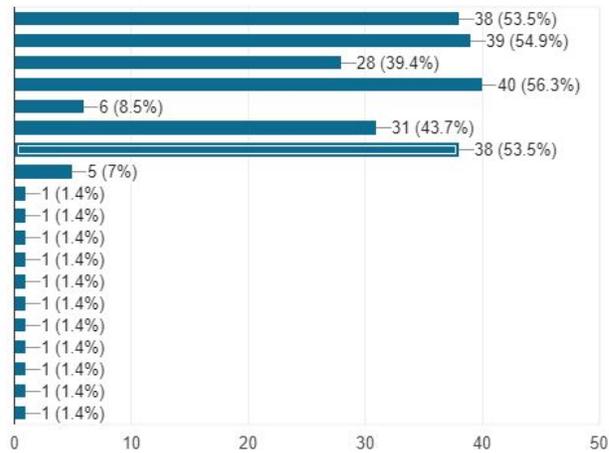
Do you think that it is important to save the endangered animals?

71 responses



Which one of the following are endangered animals in Singapore

71 responses



9

What are your opinions on endangered animals?

“Endangered animals are important, but they are not being broadcasted enough”

“Though endangered animals are important, most humans put their luxury above animal life”

“Humans need to be more empathetic towards animals.”

“Animals and humans should be able to coexist naturally rather than forcing the other into extinction”

3.3 Consultation with experts and Fieldtrip

Next, we consulted a Facebook Group -- Nature Society Singapore -- where we asked for opinions on our project, and suitable locations for visiting which provided us with a starting point for our research.

The group were mainly made up of professionals and researchers interested in this field, who gave many examples of places that we could visit to see these animals we were focusing on, which answered to our queries. They have also opined that it is a great initiative to get the younger students on board, as they feel that not many young people are interested in Singapore's rich biodiversity.

We chose two out of the multiple places the members of the Nature Society Singapore had suggested to us, and headed to these places so as to observe and collect information about Singapore's wide variation of native endangered species. These two places are namely Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve and Hindhede Park. Even though we did not see most of the animals that were in our list, we still learnt much about them through the many information boards put up in these reserves and parks.



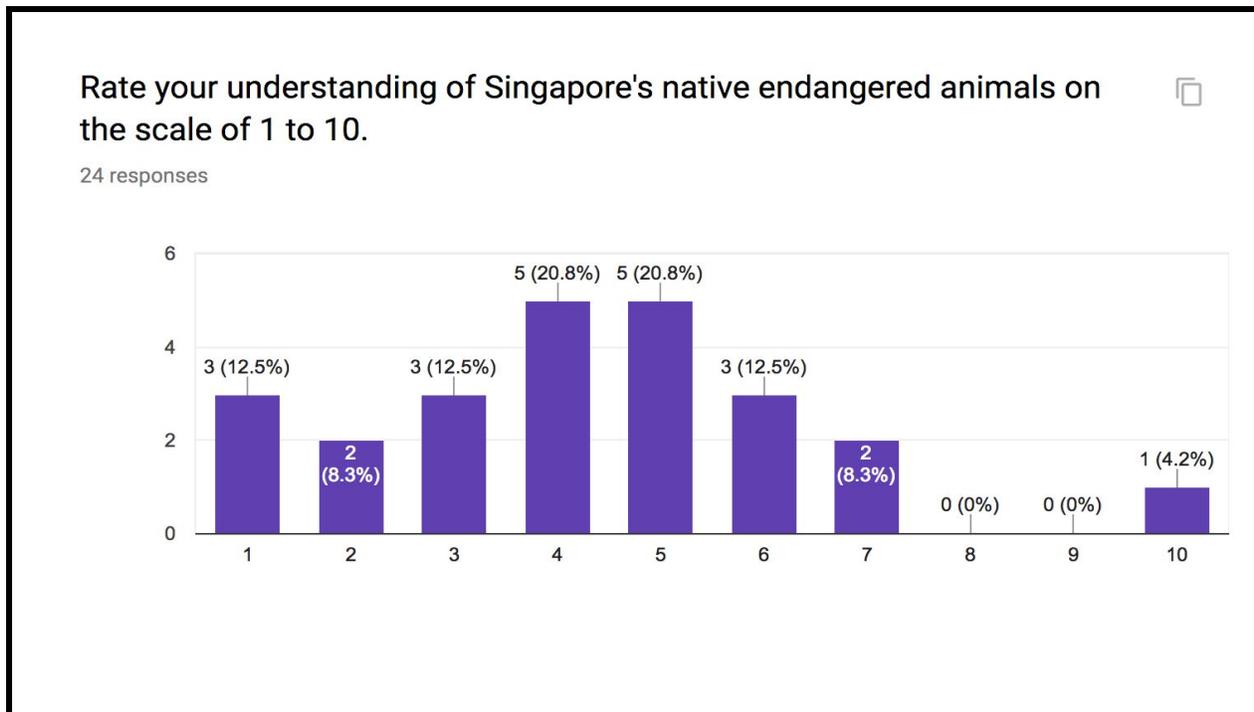
3.4 Secondary Data

We also visited the NParks website and NUS websites, one of them is <https://m.singapore.biodiversity.online/> containing information related to our project, including various newspaper reports. They all aided in deepening our knowledge about endangered animals and their vulnerability to extinction.

3.5 Pilot test

The pilot test was conducted with 8 groups of 4 who played our board game and submitted our survey subsequently after playing. We incorporated some of their recommendations into the board game where there was some change of game rules which worked towards making our board game more enjoyable and more feasible.

Before they played the game:

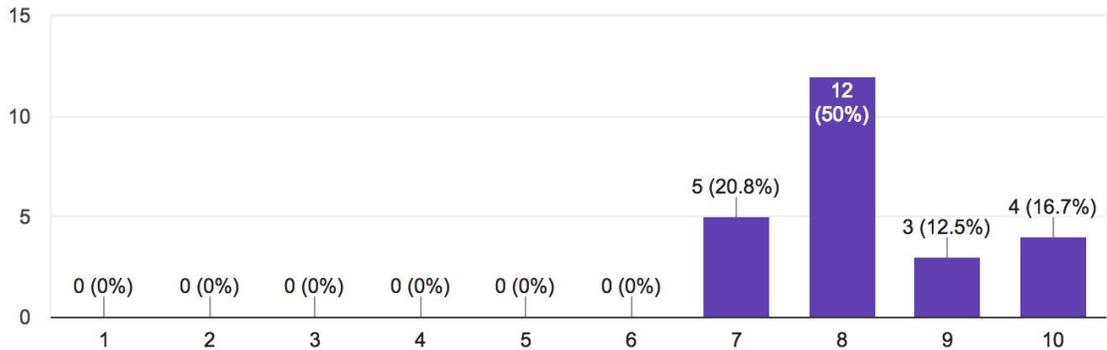


After they played the game:

Please rate how fun the game is on a scale of 1 to 10.



24 responses



How has playing our board game affected your understanding of endangered animals?

24 responses

I finally understood that Singapore has a wide variety of endangered animals that need to be protected, and I also found out many fun and interesting facts about these animals.

Found out that humans are the cause of many of these animals disappearing and their characteristics

more knowledge on what animals native and endangered in Singapore

Various features of these animals

Learnt more about the threat these animals are facing from the urbanization of Singapore

Understood the risk these animals are facing and why we should help them

I learnt that there were way more native endangered animals in Singapore than I thought

I learnt that Singapore had native animals and that some of them were endangered

For Singapore's biodiversity to continue to flourish, we must save these animals from the threats that urbanization poses to them

Got to know many fun facts about these animals

The cards have given me more info on animals

Generally, most of the feedback was positive even though there were some suggestions for improvements which we gladly took open-mindedly. Many people also acknowledged the quality of our board game saying that the design was innovative and the cards were concise and elaborate. They also claimed that it was useful in giving them more information about Singapore's native endangered animals upon reading our game cards and playing the board game. This was crucial as the people playing were from our target age group, this was important as the objective of our project was to provide a fun and interesting way to learn about endangered animals and through the pilot test we were able to achieve this.





4 OUTCOME & DISCUSSION

When we obtained positive feedback for our pilot test, we made a decision to improve the design of the cards and board. Therefore, we improved the cards to contain more information about the animals, deciding to include their size and population. We also improved the design of the Lucky deck, by having a member draw out a design for the bottom right of the card. Had we be given more time, we would have added a website where people could play our game online. This would allow our project to reach more people and spread awareness to people across the school, nation or even other countries.

5 CONCLUSION

Project Xtinct has been a gruelling project to undertake. It took many different drafts to design the board game as it was extremely difficult to find suitable pictures for the board as well as perfect the size of the blocks. Critical thinking, creativity and patience was crucial in designing the board game. It is crucial to raise awareness among the younger people as they are the future of the society. Therefore, in order to truly save the endangered animals, one needs to educate the younger people about endangered animals which is precisely what our project is doing. Ultimately, it was the hard work, patience and grit that allowed this project to be successfully completed as well as the passion for spreading awareness about endangered animals.

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