

Chapter 1 : List of animal names - Wikipedia

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Senator David Pryor shortly before the formation of the club and moved to the private sector to work for Mack McLarty , chief executive officer at Arkansas Louisiana Gas Co. Rutherford wanted there to be a place for those with a strong interest in politics to gather on an occasional basis and talk about what was going on in Arkansas. It stood where the downtown Little Rock post office now stands. Afterward, the group agreed to meet again, with some bringing their friends. At first, the membership was limited to people who were not running for or did not hold elective office. When Rutherford announced in that he was going to run for the Little Rock School Board, he stepped down as chairman. Jernigan was succeeded by his law partner, Russ Meeks. The fourth chairman of the organization was Bob Lyford, the senior vice president and general counsel for the Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corp. Ronnel served as chairman for four years. The Political Animals Club is not a highly structured organization. No dues are collected, there is no board of directors or staff, and anyone can join. Volunteers run the organization, which has an e-mail list of almost 1, names. The average attendance for meetings is about The club meets nine or ten times per year. A wide variety of Arkansas and national political figures has spoken to the club through the years. The Arkansas governor traditionally addresses the club once a year. Washington DC political analyst Charlie Cook has visited the club consistently for more than a decade. Actor and political commentator Ben Stein was a past speaker. The focus, however, has always been on Arkansas politics and those who make it such a colorful spectacle. Meetings were off the record for many years. They are now on the record and typically receive heavy media coverage.

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An abundance of wildlife and rich soils for planting crops drew many of the early European settlers to the state. Many resources have been harvested or depleted. Earlier generations did not take steps to ensure that certain species were protected as their numbers decreased, and today several plants and animals are classified as endangered, threatened, or rare. The Endangered Species Act provides a means to conserve the ecosystems upon which endangered and threatened species depend and to provide programs to prevent their extinction. A species makes the list when it is determined to be endangered or threatened because of the present or threatened destruction of its habitat; overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes; disease or predation; the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or other factors affecting survival. In some cases, conservation actions are taken to reduce or remove the threats to those species. The preventive approach is taken for species that can benefit from early recovery efforts. The list is dynamic. Species are added and removed, as well as reclassified or moved between endangered and threatened. As of June, animals and plants were listed as endangered, along with animals and plants listed as threatened, in the United States. An additional plant and animal species are listed as candidates. In Arkansas, twenty animals are endangered, eight are threatened, and four are candidates. The endangered animals are two types of crayfish, one type of beetle, eight mussels, one fish, four birds, three bats, and the Florida panther. The threatened animals are a snail, a mussel, three fish, a reptile, and two birds. A look at the numbers highlights the fact that the list is based on current knowledge and that scientists do not know everything about all species that live here. For instance, eight mussels are listed. That does not mean Arkansas is a repository for rare mussels. It simply means someone has collected a lot of data on the mussels in the state. On the other hand, only one insect is listed. That only one is listed means more inventory and study need to be done. In these cases, not enough data exist for some species. In other cases, the data may be old and not recently verified. The Florida panther *Puma concolor coryi* was one of the first species in Arkansas added to the endangered species list, in an exhaustive statewide search has not been conducted for the panther recently, and the listing carries a footnote that indicates it may be a historic occurrence in Arkansas. Two other, more well-known Arkansas animals carry special listings: The Endangered Species Act is the law that implements U.S. While American alligator populations are doing well in the United States, and wildlife officers certainly would not mistake an alligator for some other animal in the wild, the reptile skins are another matter. Alligator skins or products are difficult to distinguish from the skins of other rare members of the same reptile family, such as the Chinese alligator. The threatened plant is geocarpon. All of these were listed in the late 1960s. Additional research and fieldwork supports the continued listing of all except the Running Buffalo Clover, which also carries the footnote that it may be a historic occurrence in Arkansas. While the Fish and Wildlife Service tracks threatened and endangered species at the national level, at the state level, this job is the responsibility of the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. This agency monitors the status of all federally listed species and tracks the animals and plants that are rare to the state. While the species do not observe the political boundaries of the state, the commission is concerned with rare resources because it works to identify areas that most need protection. The state listing process recognizes two kinds of rarity. In the first case, the species itself is rare; few individuals exist, and each is important. A good example is the Ozark big-eared bat. Only a few hundred are left in the world, and all raise their young in a few caves. Any cave that this bat uses for a nursery would be a critical conservation target. On the other hand, oak-hickory forests are fairly common, but high-quality examples of them have become so rare that each deserves special attention. Thus the opportunity to preserve the best example of a type can be as important as a chance to preserve the only example. Endemics are known to occur only in a relatively small area. Several plant and animal species occur only in Arkansas. Disjuncts are species whose populations occur in widely separated areas. An example is the sand cherry *Prunus pumila*, a plant found primarily in the northern United States. As the climate changed,

populations of these species died out, but small populations of some species continue to cling to appropriate habitat in the state. The deep ravines and protected slopes of the Boston Mountains provide areas rich in relict flora. Peripherals are species reaching the edge of their range. They tend to become less common and ultimately may qualify as rare. The plains harvest mouse *Reithrodontomys montanus*, found throughout the Great Plains, becomes progressively rare southward into Arkansas. Habitat specificity includes certain species that are limited geographically by habitat requirements. Human-induced rarity includes species that become rare as a result of human activities. Loss of native habitat to such things as agricultural production and urban development has resulted in the decline of several species that were once more common in Arkansas. The prairie mole cricket *Gryllotalpa major* depends on tallgrass prairie. As prairies in Arkansas were plowed for crop production, this species became progressively rare and is now restricted to isolated fragments of remaining habitat. Many freshwater mussel species that occur in Arkansas rivers and streams depend on high water quality. Alterations of river courses through channelization, urban and agricultural runoff, and increased sediment loads have had a negative effect on many species. Rare plant examples by Arkansas region:

Biggest Animals In The World Longest Animal Monster Largest Animal Giant Animals huge Animals

See Article History Alternative Title: Arkansas ranks 29th among the 50 states in total area, but, except for Louisiana and Hawaii, it is the smallest state west of the Mississippi River. Its neighbours are Missouri to the north, Tennessee and Mississippi to the east, Louisiana to the south, Texas to the southwest, and Oklahoma to the west. The name Arkansas was used by the early French explorers to refer to the Quapaw people—a prominent indigenous group in the area—and to the river along which they settled. The term was likely a corruption of *akansea*, the word applied to the Quapaw by another local indigenous community, the Illinois. Little Rock, the state capital, is located in the central part of the state. Autumn in the Ozark Mountains, northern Arkansas, U. The Ozark and Ouachita mountains in the north and west stand in contrast to the rich, flat, river-laced agricultural lands of the east. However, two distinct regional cultures emerged in association with two types of agricultural economy. The culture of the physically isolated Ozark and Ouachita mountain areas was based primarily on subsistence farming and small-scale wood-products industries. By contrast, the lowlands culture of the flat Mississippi floodplain of the east and south was founded on a typical Southern agricultural system with cotton plantations and extensive tenant farming or sharecropping. The cultural and economic contour of Arkansas has changed since the s, as rapid economic and urban development in selected areas brought population growth and increased diversity. Although most came from other regions of the United States, many moved from abroad, particularly from various countries of Asia and, increasingly, from Mexico. The majority of the immigrants settled in urban areas, most notably Little Rock, Fort Smith, and other cities in the Arkansas River valley. Some, however, were attracted to the economically emergent northwestern corner of the state. In this era of rapid socioeconomic change, the state undertook many programs to accelerate development and to equalize educational, economic, and social opportunity. Area 53, square miles, square km. Population 2,,; est. Land Relief, drainage, and soils A line drawn from the southwestern corner to the northeastern corner of the map of Arkansas approximates the division between the highlands that lie in the west and north and the lowlands that lie in the south and east. The highlands are divided by the Arkansas River valley into two physiographic regions: The lowlands include the alluvial plain of the Mississippi River in the east and the western Gulf Coastal Plain in the south and extreme southwest. Arkansas features United States: Deep South The Deep South. The Ozark Mountain region is broken by broad, flat-topped ridges and steep valleys with fast-flowing streams. Its more rugged southern edge, known as the Boston Mountains, contains the highest elevations in the entire Ozark range. To the north lie the Springfield and Salem plateaus with gently rolling landscapes and underground drainage associated with limestone caves. The Arkansas River valley contains the highest point in the state, Mount Magazine, which rises to 2, feet metres. Several mountains in the Ouachita Province reach heights of about 2, feet metres. The mountains are eroded, folded, and faulted rocks, with the ridges stretching to the east and west. A waterfall in the Ozark Mountains, Arkansas. It is underlain by marine sands and clay and has a covering of rich loams in some areas. The alluvial plain of the Mississippi River occupies approximately the eastern third of the state and is characterized by low relief and poor drainage. The landscape is dominated by tributaries of the Mississippi—most notably the Arkansas, White, and St. Francis rivers—as well as by former channels of the Mississippi river system. The ridge is a dissected upland composed primarily of river sands and gravels capped with windblown silt. Temperatures vary with elevation and latitude, however. Precipitation in Arkansas typically amounts to nearly 50 inches 1, mm annually and is distributed about equally throughout the year. October, however, tends to be somewhat drier than other months. The wettest areas are in the Ouachita Mountains and the southeastern part of the state; the driest area is in the Ozarks in the northwest. In the Ouachitas the vegetation is predominantly mixed pine and hardwood forest. The lowlands were extensively modified by agriculture, but remnants of the original bottomland hardwood forest remain. About half of the state is forest-covered. Arkansas is situated on the Mississippi flyway and thus is a seasonal way station for migratory ducks, geese, shorebirds, and various small land birds. The rice fields and reservoirs of the eastern

part of the state attract many game birds and animals, among the most plentiful of which are turkeys, quail, deer, opossums, squirrels, and rabbits. Bobcats inhabit the hill country and feral hogs locally known as razorbacks are found in many parts of the state. In the mid-19th century black bears were reintroduced into the Ozarks. The lakes and streams of the state offer an abundance of fish, including crappie, bass, walleye, drum, catfish, buffalo, gar, and trout. There also were many people of black African descent; most were slaves of the white settlers. The heaviest concentrations of African Americans were on the plateau in the northwest, in the fertile eastern alluvial plain, and in the river valleys. Some areas in the eastern part of the state remained more than half African American. Other notable groups included a small but rapidly expanding Hispanic population, mostly of Mexican origin, and a smaller Asian community, consisting primarily of Vietnamese, Chinese, Indians, and Filipinos. No federally recognized tribes or reservation lands existed within the state. Historically, the religious atmosphere of Arkansas has been one of conservative fundamentalism, with a variety of Christian Protestant denominations constituting the largest religious communities in the state. Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Pentecostals, and followers of the Church of Christ are among the most prominent Protestant groups. There also is a growing Roman Catholic population, substantially boosted by Vietnamese and Mexican immigration.

Settlement patterns and demographic trends

In the Ozark and Ouachita mountains, where a plantation economy was impracticable, people lived in rural isolation until the mid-19th century. Meanwhile, settlement of the westernmost areas was long discouraged by the rough frontier border with the Indian Territory, and in the early 21st century much of that region remained timbered and lay within the boundaries of the Ouachita and Ozark National Forests. In the flat portions of Arkansas a plantation economy developed, wherein many tenant farmers delivered labour, produce, cash, or a combination thereof to a landlord in exchange for the right and means to cultivate the land. As the rate of farm mechanization increased during the 20th century, so too did the exodus of the tenant farmers—both black and white—to cities in the northern and eastern United States. Indeed, in the later 20th century, the populations of the flatlands of southern and southeastern Arkansas plummeted to less than half of what they had been in the World War II era; the trend continued into the early 21st century, with the region regularly recording a stable or declining population. Meanwhile, the more rugged northwestern region and central portions of the state have experienced population growth, which has generally offset the losses in the flatlands.

Little Rock, the major port on the Arkansas River, lies among the easternmost foothills of the Ouachita Mountains. A marketing centre and the site of assorted manufacturing facilities, the city also is home to various corporate headquarters and convention centres, as well as an array of renovated historic buildings. At the western boundary of the state lies Fort Smith. It is one of the most industrialized cities in the state and serves as a regional business and service centre. The economy of Pine Bluff, some 50 miles (80 km) downriver from Little Rock, continues to depend largely on the surrounding agricultural area, but since the late 20th century it also has become more industrialized and business-oriented. Texarkana, contiguous with the Texas city with the same name, is an important regional rail centre. An urban concentration in northwest Arkansas has emerged in the wake of the rapid growth of retailing in Bentonville, of trucking in Lowell, and of poultry interests in Springdale and other cities of the region. King Cotton has been dethroned, farming has become an increasingly corporate venture, and agriculture itself has lost its position as the mainstay of the economy. Many other historical building blocks of the Arkansas economy also have declined, if not disappeared, while new economic activities, particularly in the service sector, have sprung up in their place. By the early 21st century a diverse services sector had become the largest segment of the economy. Facilitating this economic shift has been the network of paved highways and interstate roads that ended the isolation of the Ozarks and Ouachitas, ultimately allowing the establishment of industries that serve national and international markets. Moreover, cotton has faced increasingly stiff market competition from synthetic fibres, which has triggered a drop in cotton prices. As one of the largest rice producers in the country, Arkansas historically has grown rice for export, but strained. Meanwhile, soybeans, the most widely cultivated crop in Arkansas since the 1950s, as well as wheat have confronted competition from producers in other states as well as other countries. In order to survive in this competitive environment, farmers in Arkansas continued to mechanize and intensify agricultural production. Many of the fields are now double-cropped with wheat and soybeans, smaller farms were

consolidated to form larger acreages, and machinery got bigger. Most of the hand labourers who once worked the fields of Arkansas have disappeared; many of them migrated to urban centres throughout the country. During the s large-scale poultry farming started in northwest Arkansas and spread throughout the western half of the state. The forests of Arkansas contain extensive stands of pine and oak. Aggressive reforestation programs have made forestry in Arkansas sustainable since the mid 20th century. Fertile soil and timber were the resources that attracted early settlers. Later, oil fields in southern Arkansas yielded natural gas and bromide salts, while coal of a nearly smokeless quality as well as natural gas have been extracted from the Arkansas River valley. Since the late 20th century, however, most aluminum companies have closed their Arkansas operations, and the mining of bauxite has ceased, all in response to changing domestic and world markets. Magnet Cove, near Hot Springs in west-central Arkansas, contains dozens of minerals in one small valley, among which barite and titanium are the most important. Arkansas whetstones, made from novaculite, are regarded as among the finest in the world. Near Murfreesboro, in southwestern Arkansas, is Crater of Diamonds State Park, site of the only active diamond mine in the country. Among the principal manufactures of Arkansas are food products, chemicals, wood and paper products, motors, automobile and airplane parts, and assorted machinery. The most important manufacturing firm in Arkansas in the early 21st century was Tyson Foods, Inc. Tyson started in northwest Arkansas as one of the many poultry companies that established themselves in the region in the early 20th century. Through expansions and acquisitions, Tyson Foods became one of the largest poultry and meat processors in the world, with large processing plants scattered throughout the country. Services Since the late 20th century the service sector has become much more important in the Arkansas economy. In part this is attributable to the exponential growth of the Arkansas-based Wal-Mart retail stores. The firm quickly expanded its operations to other small towns nearby. Eventually, Wal-Mart became a nationwide chain, and by the early s it had become the largest American retailer and had begun to open stores in other countries. The emergence of Wal-Mart has had a dramatic impact on the economy of Arkansas, especially in the northwestern region. A tremendous number of vendors have brought in many employees to the area simply to service Wal-Mart, their largest single account. Wal-Mart itself also has provided northwestern Arkansas with many jobs. Transportation Several major railroads provide freight service within Arkansas and to major cities in the central United States.

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These endangered animals ooze star power, a factor that conservationists have capitalized on in order to fund projects to protect them and, often by default, the other organisms that share their complex ecosystems. However, skinks and roaches are integral participants in their ecosystems as well and just as deserving of assistance as their flashier compatriots. You might then consider the animals on this list the A-listers whose box office draw finances the continued existence of the lesser-known character actors who inhabit the same environments. China, which is home to the remaining wild population of fewer than 2, individuals, has since the late s instituted more stringent habitat protections and poaching has all but ceased. Their status is still tenuous, though. Their range is fragmented and they are still subject to disease, occasional predation, and starvation when large swathes of the bamboo on which they feed completes its life cycle and dies. Slash-and-burn agriculture, along with logging, and human encroachment, have hugely diminished the habitat available to these felines, which require extensive ranges capable of supporting the large herbivores that constitute the bulk of their diets. Probably fewer than 4, are left in the wild. In , China explicitly outlawed the consumption of endangered species, including tigers, whose bones, penises, and other organs are superstitiously believed to have magical curative powers. In , the first year a population survey was conducted, only 29 whooping cranes remained in the wild. Three years later, only 16 were left. Hunting and reduction of their wetland habitat had vitiated the population and concerted efforts to salvage remnant birds did not begin until the late s. Today, there are over birds, thanks in large part to innovative breeding programs. Though a plan that involved transferring whooping crane eggs to the nests of related sandhill cranes for fostering ultimately failed, captive rearing and reintroduction have established two wild populations in Florida, one of which has been taught to migrate to Wisconsin. The only self-sustaining population migrates between Alberta, Canada, and Texas, U. Commercial hunting of the species was ultimately banned in . It stipulated the maintenance of photo databases of individual specimens and the collection of genetic and migration data in order to better understand the species, which remains at risk from ship collisions and entanglement in fishing nets. Asian elephant *Elephas maximus* Asian elephant Asian elephant *Elephas maximus*. That number may be far lower; some regions inhabited by the lumbering pachyderms are inaccessible due to the terrain or to political volatility. The burgeoning human population thereâ€”and elsewhere in Asiaâ€”creates conflicts for space and resources. And while the tusks of Asian elephants are much smaller than those of their African counterparts, the Asian species is still poached for its ivory, meat, and skin. A target of the commercial fur trade, the species was almost wiped out, with only some 2, of an estimated , left by . That year, an international ban on commercial hunting was enacted. Though that ban, along with management and conservation measures taken in the wake of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, have helped populations recover to perhaps a third of their earlier numbers, they are highly vulnerable to both natural phenomena such as killer whale predation and to anthropogenic factors such as oil spills. Probably fewer than 6, remain in the wild, though due to the remote mountainous terrain preferred by the species, and its elusive nature, data is hard to come by. The largest populations are in China and Mongolia, with significant populations in India and Kyrgyzstan as well. Its natural prey include blue sheep and ibex, but in some areas, it is heavily dependent on domestic animals. Poaching still constitutes a major threat to the species, as does overhunting of its natural prey species. Fish and Wildlife Service Depending on who you ask, there are either two species of gorilla, the eastern Gorilla *binge* and western Gorilla *gorilla* , or three subspecies, the eastern lowland, western lowland, and mountain gorillas. Regardless of who you ask, all gorillas are endangered. There are probably only around , left in the wild. Habitat encroachment and poaching for bushmeat, trophies, and magical talismans have led to substantial losses. Because their social structure is so complex and because they reproduce slowlyâ€”with females only giving birth once every four years at bestâ€”the removal of even a few individuals from a gorilla

troop can catastrophically impact its ability to sustain itself. Tasmanian devil *Sarcophilus harrissii* Tasmanian devil *Sarcophilus harrissii*. It continues to decimate populations of the species, which only occurs on the Australian island of Tasmania. There may only be 10, wild individuals remaining. Captive breeding of uninfected individuals has been instituted and efforts have been made to develop a vaccine for the cancer, which is thought to have stemmed from mutated cells from a single specimen. Like gorillas and chimpanzees, they have been known to use tools. Due in large part to logging and capture for the exotic pet trade, orangutans are restricted to the Southeast Asian islands of Borneo and Sumatra number fewer than 60, per a study. Unlike other great apes, they are usually solitary or live in groups of fewer than three, making them difficult to track and study.

Chapter 5 : Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Species - Encyclopedia of Arkansas

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