

Spot the Species!

Scientists discover hundreds of plant and animal species.

Imagine hiking through a thick, dark forest. As you push your way past the trees, you notice something stir. Suddenly, you're staring into the bright pink eyes of a **katydid** (KAY-tee-did). That is a type of grasshopper. It's a kind of katydid that no scientist has ever seen before. The katydid even looks as if it were wearing pink boots!

That's just what happened to a team of scientists. The experts found the katydid and more than 200 other plant and animal species. They uncovered the species in Papua New Guinea. That is a country on an island in the Pacific Ocean. It is near Australia.



Possum: Stephen Richards; Map: Leigh Haeger

Experts found this possum hanging out in a forest.

The researchers were studying the country to learn more about its **biodiversity**. That is the variety of plants and animals in an environment. They uncovered many surprises, including 100 new spider species, about 10 plants, and a mouse. The team also found a **rare**, or uncommon, bat, several frogs, and about 100 species of ants.

Andrea Lucky is one of the scientists who helped discover the ants. "I looked for ants on tree trunks and on leaves, on the ground, [and] in logs," she told *WR News*. "I was blown away by the number of new species that we found."

Experts are trying to learn more about all of Papua New Guinea's species so they can protect them. The animals' home is in trouble. Loggers are chopping down trees in the country. Some species are also hunted.

Researchers hope to create protected areas. There, logging and hunting would be illegal. That will help the experts save the species they have found while they continue to look for more. "It is absolutely incredible how much [there still is] to be discovered," Lucky says.

Wild Kingdom

Here's a closer look at some of the newly discovered species scientists spied in Papua New Guinea.



Stephen Richards

Meet mighty mouse! This rodent is unlike any other experts have seen before. The mouse has thin feet, sharp teeth, and a long, white-tipped tail.



Wayne Takeuchi

Scientists found this pretty plant all over the area. Species like this one are often used to decorate homes. With the flower's large white petals, it's no wonder.



Piotr Naskrecki/iLCP

Researchers got a real kick out of this katydid. If threatened, the grasshopper holds its large, spiny legs above its head—to jab you!

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Why are the animals in Papua New Guinea in need of protection?

- A because loggers are chopping down the trees in the forests where they live
- B because researchers are taking them and putting them in zoos
- C because the island of Papua New Guinea is in the middle of the Pacific Ocean
- D because there are no safe areas for the animals to live in

2. Which of the following does the author describe last in the passage?

- A The author describes a new kind of katydid.
- B The author describes facts about some newly discovered plants and animals.
- C The author describes the 100 species of ants that were found.
- D The author describes reasons the animals are endangered.

3. It can be inferred from the passage that

- A some people on Papua New Guinea are interested in joining the scientists to search for new species
- B scientists will probably not be able to find any more new species on Papua New Guinea
- C some species on Papua New Guinea are new to scientists but familiar to residents of the island
- D soon there will be no more trees for loggers to cut down on Papua New Guinea

4. Read the following sentence: "Researchers hope to create protected areas [where] logging and hunting are illegal."

In this sentence the word **protected** means

- A hunting
- B safe
- C discovery
- D searching

5. This passage deals primarily with

- A the loggers who are cutting down trees and endangering the animals
- B how to look for new species of ants in the forest
- C what a new kind of katydid looks like
- D the recent discovery of new species of plants and animals

6. Why were the researchers studying in Papua New Guinea?

7. What word would the author probably use to describe the team of scientists?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Many species in Papua New Guinea are endangered _____ they are being hunted.

- A but
- B because
- C however
- D although

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

Researchers want to create safe areas in Papua New Guinea to try to save some endangered species.

Who? researchers

What? _____

Where? _____

Why? _____

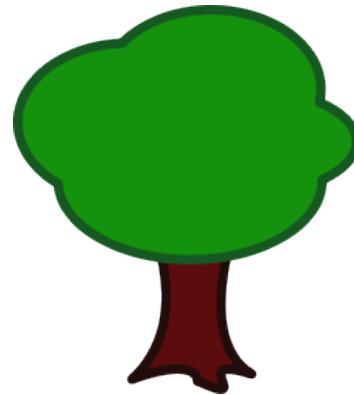
10. Read the vocabulary word and definition below and complete questions 10a, 10b, and 11.

Vocabulary Word: rare (rare): almost never seen or done.

10a. Read the sentences below and underline the word **rare**.

1. My family owns a rare coin that is worth a lot of money.
2. It is rare to see a monkey in the middle of the city.
3. I was very sad to learn that my grandmother had a rare kind of cancer.
4. I was so excited to see the rare bird when we went hiking in the woods.
5. The museum has a lot of rare works of art.

10b. Which image shows something that is NOT a rare sight?



11. Is a mosquito a rare insect? Why or why not?
