

Tips and Ideas for the *PLANET IN DANGER* Poster Painting Competition.
If you are stuck for ideas then here are some things to think about:

Biodiversity is the variety of living things - trees/fungi/ butterflies/ mammals, birds or fish. It includes the range of habitats on which all living things depend. **Humans rely on biodiversity more than we realise.** Without healthy ecosystems we can't exist. We depend on natural structures and processes for the air we breathe, the food we eat, the breaking down of our waste products and many of our medicinal needs. Natural processes in our environment provide 'services' in ways we cannot replace, for example flood control and reducing pollution. Biodiversity enables these processes to continue and flourish.

Early Warnings. Changes in species numbers and their populations and the quality of their different habitats can give us early warnings of environmental change and potential harm to the natural environment. Biodiversity also makes the environment in which we live a more interesting, lively and healthy space.

When biodiversity is threatened worldwide, our planet is in danger.

To help you plan your *Planet in Danger* Poster you could consider:

- **The important role that biodiversity plays in our everyday lives**, for example, in our health, wealth, food and fuel.
- **The rich and beautiful environments that exist on our planet Earth**, for example, the Amazon Rainforest and Great Barrier Reef.
- **Ways in which Man can protect our precious biodiversity.** Be responsible for your surroundings – garden, shop and travel wisely
- **Current conservation/biodiversity success stories**
eg fish returning to rivers that used to have no life. Re-introduction of rare species such as the red kite etc. See Web Directory below for more details
- **Endangered animals, both well known and unheard of!**
In Britain our native ladybirds are dying out/our beetles are disappearing.
The house sparrow is hardly seen in London now/Thrushes are in decline
In India, the beautiful Bengal tiger and the Asian elephant are in danger
In Africa, the black rhino is threatened
Of the world's 5,490 known mammals, 79 are extinct, or extinct in the wild,
188 are critically endangered and 449 endangered
- **Endangered Plants.** The Botanical Gardens at Kew estimates that 60-100,000 species of plants are threatened with extinction..
More than 70,000 plant species are used in traditional and

modern medicine. Many more potentially valuable plants are disappearing as the logging industry destroys the rainforest.

- **Overfishing.** Many species cannot withstand our demand for higher catches.
- **Overuse of fertilizers** and other agricultural chemicals poisons the land and streams. The poisons flow to the sea and our oceans are poisoned too.
- **We make too much rubbish,** and we dispose of it irresponsibly, harming wildlife and our environment.
- **We concrete over our gardens for parking our cars.** This reduces insect populations and insect eating birds decline. Our actions have long term consequences for plant and animal life, and ultimately our own lives are made poorer.