

Understanding Concepts

- (a) In your own words, describe the classification system for at-risk species.

(b) Why is a classification system like this useful?
- Using the criteria in **Table 1**, classify each of the following species as extinct, endangered, extirpated, threatened, or vulnerable. Explain your classification.

(a) The wood turtle is found in pockets throughout southern Ontario, southern Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. The number of wood turtles in Canada seems to be stable, but in the United States their numbers are decreasing as many are being taken from the wild into homes as pets.

(b) Furbish's lousewort is a tall herb that grows on riverbanks. In Canada, it grows only on a 200-km stretch of the Saint John River in New Brunswick. Forestry, farming, and flooding caused by hydroelectric dams all affect the area in which it lives.

(c) The greater prairie chicken has not been seen in Ontario, Manitoba, or Alberta for many years. It was

last seen in Saskatchewan in 1977. It can still be found in the prairie states of the U.S.

- Choose one of the species listed in **Table 1** or **Figure 2** for further research. Why is the species at risk? Are there any initiatives underway to improve the status of the species?

I What could you do to help? Report on the results of your

R research.

Making Connections

- (a) Predict which area of Canada has the greatest number of organisms at risk. Provide a hypothesis that explains why wildlife in this area would have more problems.

(b) Do national and provincial parks help alleviate this problem? Explain.

Reflecting

- The bald eagle is not listed as at risk in Canada. Should resources be used to help restore this bird around Lake Erie?

Work the Web

The peregrine falcon was once considered endangered. Research Canadian efforts to restore this predator and report on their success. To do your research, visit www.science.nelson.com and follow the links from Science 10, 1.2.



Figure 2
Some at-risk Canadian species