

Endangered Animal Species

◆ Problem

How has the number of endangered species changed?

◆ Procedure

Category	Number of Endangered Species		Change + or -
	1994	1996	
Mammals	36	55	
Birds	57	74	
Reptiles	8	14	
Amphibians	6	7	
Fish	60	65	
Snails	14	15	
Clams	50	51	
Crustaceans	11	14	
Insects	16	20	
Spiders	4	5	

The table above lists the number of endangered animal species in the United States in 1994 and in 1996. For each category, calculate the change in the number of endangered species. Write your answers in the last column.

◆ Analyze and Conclude

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Which category had the largest number of endangered species in 1996? Was this the same category with the largest number as in 1994? Explain.
2. In which categories did the number of endangered species increase between 1994 and 1996? Which category increased the most? By how much?
3. When is a species considered to be endangered?
4. What are four ways that species may become endangered?
5. Why is it important to protect endangered species against extinction?

