

# Habitats

**Habitats** (HAB-uh-tats) are where animals or plants live. Polar bears live in very cold habitats. Fennec foxes live in very hot, desert habitats.

Animals can become **endangered** (en-DAYN-jurd) or extinct if their habitats are damaged. The animals may run out of food. They may not be able to move to new habitats.

## Endangered

Endangered animals are in danger of becoming extinct. They are also known as **threatened** (THREH-tend) animals.

Number of Threatened Animal Groups

Animal Group	2000	2002	2004	2006
Mammals	1,130	1,137	1,101	1,093
Birds	1,183	1,192	1,203	1,206
Reptiles	296	293	304	341
Amphibians	146	157	1,770	1,811
Fishes	752	742	800	1,173
Insects	555	557	559	623

## LET'S EXPLORE MATH

Use the table above to answer these questions.

- What animal group was less endangered in 2006 than in 2000?
- Why do you think amphibian numbers have increased?

Polar bears live in the Arctic. They spend much of their time on the sea ice. They are becoming more endangered because their habitat is changing. The sea ice is melting.

# Food Web

Animals and plants in a habitat are part of a food web. A change in just one part of the food web may make them endangered or extinct.

In this food web, Arctic cod eat **plankton**. Arctic birds, seals, killer whales, and polar bears eat the cod. Polar bears and killer whales eat the seals. Each "link" in the web is food for the next link. What would happen if the Arctic cod became extinct?

