

New Animal Species



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We share the earth with millions of animal species. Some are huge, like elephants. Some are so small you can only see them with a microscope, like organisms that live in the ocean. However, although the earth has thousands of animal species, many are endangered. Scientists are trying to save endangered animals, but surprisingly, they are also finding new species.

In a South American rainforest, 60 new species of animals were found in 2012. Scientists say the reason so many new kinds of animals were found there is that this rainforest was almost untouched by humans.

Six new species of frogs were discovered at this time. This is particularly important because frogs around the world are becoming extinct. Scientists named one new frog the cocoa frog because of the color of its skin. The cocoa frog lives in the tall trees in this rainforest.

New kinds of animals are also being found in the oceans. A new shark was discovered in the Atlantic

Ocean, off the coast of South Carolina. The new shark, called the Carolina hammerhead, looks like a hammerhead shark, but it has fewer bones. A new kind of small ocean creature was also discovered in underwater caves in the Pacific Ocean, off the coast near California. The creature looks like a see-through shrimp, and it is only 3.3 millimeters long.

In Turkey, a country in the Middle East, scientists have found a new species of wood scorpion. Scorpions are poisonous animals that usually live in dry environments. The new scorpion, though, lives in humid environments and hides under rocks and in garden walls. It is small and mostly harmless to humans.

When so many animal species are in danger of becoming extinct, finding new ones is exciting. However, scientists continue to try to save endangered

animals. Many animals—both known and unknown—may contribute to the earth in ways science doesn't even understand yet.



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