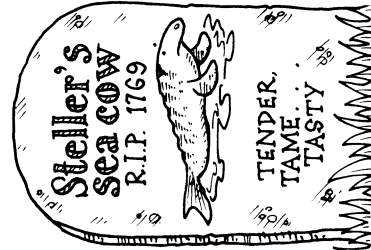
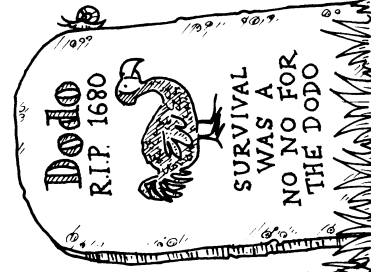


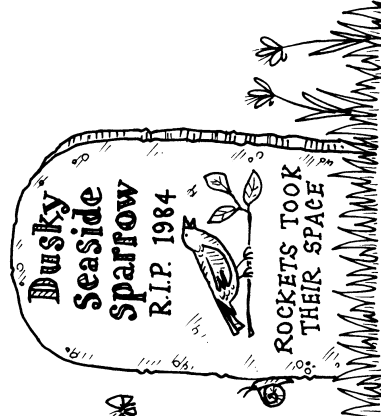
# Extinct or endangered?

- Dinosaurs were amongst the earliest creatures to live on Earth. They dominated the planet for 150 million years before becoming extinct over 65 million years ago.
- There is no definite answer to why dinosaurs died out.
- However, we do know why the creatures opposite became extinct.
- Which of these creatures are extinct and which are endangered?

- The dodo. Once lived on the tiny island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. It was especially happy because it had no enemies on the island. Until, of course, man arrived and brought rats, cats and dogs. The poor old dodo had no wings, so it couldn't fly off. The last dodo was so slow, it bit the dust as long ago as 1680.
- Steller's sea cow. A tame and gentle creature. Named after George Steller, a German naturalist who discovered the sea cow when he was shipwrecked in 1742. The last sea cow was spotted in 1769, and it followed the fate of the rest of its family... to be eaten by sailors.



- The Tasmanian wolf looked like a smaller, slimmer version of the European wolf, but was striped and used to carry its babies in a pouch, like a kangaroo. Sheep farmers on the island of Tasmania were furious when it took a fancy to their flocks, so they wiped it out. The last survivor died in Hobart Zoo in 1936.
- The dusky seaside sparrow. Once upon a time, the Cape Kennedy space centre was just a vast stretch of marshland. It was a sparrow's paradise. But then the rockets went up, and the bird's came down as the development of the site wiped out their food supply. Scientists couldn't save them, and this sparrow made its final flight in 1984.



Giant panda    Rabbit    Tiger    Passenger pigeon

- Find out as much as you can and write a guide explaining how we can help creatures that are threatened with extinction.