



## *In The News*

Current Events in Earth & Space Science

Summaries for the Classroom

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### **Extinct Animals... or are they?**

With advances in technology and access to remote locations across the globe, scientists are rediscovering species that were once thought to have disappeared or thought to be extinct.

#### **Articles to Share with Students**

Rainbow Toad Rediscovered, Photographed for First Time

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2011/07/110714-rainbow-toad-extinct-species-frogs-animals-science/>

"Lost" Fox Subspecies Found via Saliva Analysis

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2010/09/100908-extinct-fox-species-saliva-analysis-science-environment/>

Alabama Snail Returns from the Dead

<http://blogs.smithsonianmag.com/science/2011/06/alabama-snail-returns-from-the-dead/>

#### **General Extinction Information**

Extinction – From PBS Evolution series

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/evolution/extinction/index.html>

Endangered and Extinct Species – New York Times Science Topics

[http://topics.nytimes.com/topics/news/science/topics/endangered\\_and\\_extinct\\_species/index.html](http://topics.nytimes.com/topics/news/science/topics/endangered_and_extinct_species/index.html)

Photos: Bubble-nest Frog, Other "Extinct" Species Found

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2011/02/pictures/110217-extinct-frogs-species-science-amphibians-lost/>

## **Questions for Classroom Discussion**

- What does it mean for a species to be extinct?
- What are some reasons why species go extinct?
- Why do scientists mistakenly label some species as extinct?
- How can scientists tell if they have found a long-lost species, or if what they have discovered is a new species?
- What is the difference between an endangered species, an extinct species, and a living fossil? Give an example of each.

*Compiled July 16, 2011, by L.A. Guertin*