

Endangered Chinchillas

By David

Chinchillas are endangered! They are endangered because people kill them for their fur. In the 1940s, they were so endangered that they almost became extinct. These creatures live in a small area in the Andes Alpine regions in South America.

What is a Chinchilla? A chinchilla is a rodent with soft and cuddly fur. The reason for such fur is that they have more than 60 hairs sticking out of one hair follicle! They are herbivores and can live for more than ten years! Chinchillas live in clans of 100 or more. Chinchillas are nocturnal, which means they only move at night. When they do move, they are very fast and agile.

Men kill chinchillas to make coats out of their fur because their fur is extremely soft. Unfortunately, to make one coat you need 150 chinchilla's pelts. Even if man stops killing chinchillas, their numbers will still decrease because their



habitat, the Andes forests, are constantly being destroyed.

If chinchillas become extinct, then the Andes forests might be at risk too! Chinchillas help the environment by spreading seeds, which other animals need for food. These creatures are nice and helpful creatures to the ecosystem. If people stopped killing them, they would be helping the environment!