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## THE ITTY BITTY NENE



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## THE ITTY BITTY NENE

Once upon a time...  
There was an Itty Bitty Bird  
That sounds like SaySay!  
(This Hawaiian goose  
Is called a NENE!)

The Itty Bitty Nene  
Was near a tear!  
Most of his family  
Was about to disappear!

Years and years ago  
There were plenty  
Of the Hawaiian geese.  
Now there's hardly any!

People ate lots of them  
Because of their taste.  
They also liked their pretty feathers.  
Oh, my, what a waste!

People used more  
Than the Nene's could make new.  
Now Nene's are hard to find  
Except in a zoo!

The same is true  
Of other animals, too.  
Like the pandas, and gorillas,  
And whales that are called blue!



The Itty Bitty Nene  
Thought about other friends,  
Friends who once were plenty,  
Friends who could swim, and run, and fly,  
And now there are hardly any!

Where is the whooping crane?  
And the orangutan?  
The African elephant?  
And the rhino? Oh, man!

What about the dolphin?  
And the Apache trout?  
Or the ocean shrimp?  
Or our funny friend, the chimp?

The California condor?  
And some eagles, too!  
The snow leopard?  
And the cave catfish?  
WHEW!

In the Artic  
Where there is lots and lots of snow  
The polar bear and the snow fox  
Have nowhere to go!

Itty Bitty Nene  
And his family, too,  
Would miss all these animals,  
And so would you!



You and me  
Need to help them survive.  
We need to help them,  
Help them stay alive!

We can do that  
By protecting their home.  
We can do that  
By letting them roam!

Earth is our home  
But it is their home, too!  
When we save their place,  
We save ours—and that's true!

We need these animals  
Both tomorrow and today.  
We need our Itty Bitty Nene,  
It is up to you!

And he lived happily ever after...



## LESSON PLAN

The Itty Bitty Nene is the state bird of what state?

Why is the Nene disappearing? (becoming extinct)

What other animals do you know that are becoming extinct?

Why should we try to protect those animals?

Have you seen any animals in the zoo that are rare?

What can you do to protect rare animals?

What are some of the rhyming words in the story?