Where in the World?

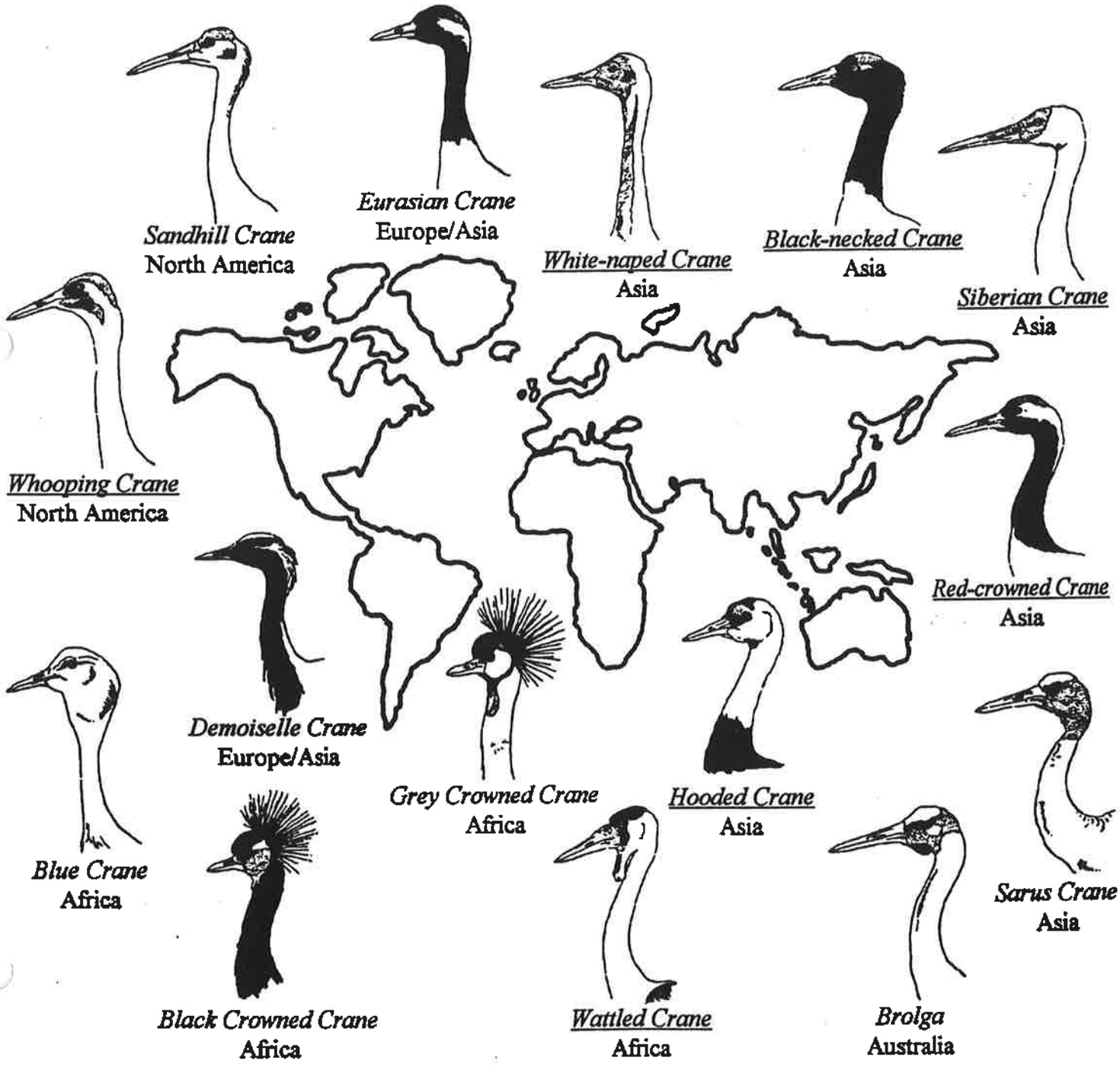
This page shows all the different kinds, or **species**, of cranes. How many different species are there?

When there are very few members of a species left, we say that the species is **endangered**. In the pictures below, endangered cranes have their names underlined. How many endangered species of cranes are there?

On the world map below, write the name of each of the six continents (the map does not show Antarctica). With a red pencil, draw a line from each endangered crane to the continent where it lives. With a blue pencil, draw a line from each non-endangered crane to the continent where it lives.

Where do most of the crane species live?

Where do most of the endangered crane species live?



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Cultural Connections To Cranes

Cranes can be found on all but two continents, Antarctica and South America. Because of their world-wide distribution, the study of cranes offers teachers an opportunity to engage students in a meaningful study of other cultures as well. With cranes showing consistently declining numbers in many parts of the world, international efforts have been launched to prevent their eventual demise. Much of this work is being coordinated by the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin. The cooperation among nations being exemplified by this work provides students with an excellent example of people working together globally for a common good.

The magic of cranes crosses all cultural boundaries. Over the centuries, cranes have been symbols of beauty, good fortune, long life, and nobility for many cultures. They have appeared on the stamps and coins of many countries. They have been the subjects of folk tales, poetry, and sculpture. Additionally, cranes have been featured in song and dance throughout the world.

In many Asian countries, where cranes are symbols of good luck, their pictures are painted on palace walls, vases, and fans. In Japan, cranes adorn the wedding kimono as a symbol of happiness in marriage.

The aboriginal people of Australia tell a story of a girl named Brolga who was admired by all for her dancing. An evil magician wanted desperately to marry this dancing girl, but Brolga refused him. Enraged by Brolga's rejection, the magician vowed that if he couldn't have her, no one could. The next day as Brolga was dancing on the open plain, the magician sent a whirlwind to swallow her up. When the whirlwind blew on, all that was left where Brolga once stood was a beautiful, dancing bird known today as the Brolga crane.

Several nations in the world have selected cranes as their national bird. With the help of reference materials, students can research one or more species of crane found in other parts of the world, as well as the work being done to save these birds. Students might design a stamp that could be used internationally to promote crane conservation.

Listed below are the names and countries of the species of crane found throughout the world:

Black Crowned Crane	Africa
Black-necked Crane	Asia
Blue Crane	Africa
Brolga	Australia
Demoiselle Crane	Africa and Asia
Eurasian Crane	Africa, Asia, and Europe
Grey Crowned Crane	Africa
Hooded Crane	Asia
Red-crowned Crane	Asia
Sandhill Crane	North America
Sarus Crane	Asia and Australia
Siberian Crane	Asia
Wattled Crane	Africa
White-naped Crane	Asia and Japan
Whooping Crane	North America