

Ch 9 Sustaining Biodiversity: The Species Approach Review Questions

1. How have human activities indirectly threatened polar bears in the arctic.
2. What is biological extinction?
3. Define background extinction rate and mass extinction.
4. How is an extinction rate expressed?
5. What was the background extinction rate?
6. In 2005, scientists from around the world estimated that the current annual rate of species extinction is at least 100 to 1,000 times the background rate that existed before modern humans appeared some 150,000 years ago. What are three reasons why most extinction experts consider this to be a conservative estimate.
7. Distinguish between endangered species and threatened species and give an example of each.
8. List four characteristics that make some species especially prone to extinction.
9. What are four underlying causes of species extinction that results from human activities?
10. Using the acronym "HIPPCO" list the six largest causes of premature extinction of species resulting from human activities
11. Describe the major effects of habitat loss and fragmentation populations of living organisms.
12. Give two examples of the benefits of introducing some nonnative species.
13. Give two examples of the harmful effects of nonnative species that have been introduced (a) deliberately and (b) accidentally.
14. Explain how pesticides such as DDT can be biomagnified in food chains and webs.
15. What is colony collapse disorder and what might be causing it?
16. What economic and ecological roles do honeybees play?
14. Describe the poaching of wild species and give three examples of species that are threatened by this illegal activity.
15. Why are tigers likely to disappear within a few decades?
16. Describe how Pilai Poonswad helped to protect rare rhinoceros hornbills in Thailand.
17. Describe the threat to some forms of wildlife from increased hunting for bush meat.
18. List three reasons why we should be alarmed by the decline of bird species.
19. Describe the relationship between vultures, wild hogs, and rabies in India.
20. Describe CITES international treaty that is used to help protect species.
21. What was the U.S. Endangered Species Act designed to do?
22. How successful it has been, and why is it controversial?
23. Describe efforts to protect the California condor from extinction.
24. What is the precautionary principle and how can we use it to help protect wild species and overall biodiversity?

