

The six extinction

Extinction: the complete loss of species

Threaten organism: a high threatened species due to human activities

There have been 5 mass extensions

History of extinction

- Biodiversity of life has increased over 580 million years

Mass extinctions

- Species loss on a global scale
- Affects a large number of species
- Dramatic impact
- Probably caused by a massive global change
  - climate fluctuations that changed the sea level
  - continental drift that changed ocean and land forms
  - asteroid impact that caused widespread destruction and climate change

Extinction are caused by various events

Causes of extinction

- Loss or degradation of habitat
- Introduction of nonnative species
- Over-exploitation of species
- Pollution

### **Extinction due to habitat**

Habitat: THE PLACE WHERE A PARTICULAR SPECIES LIVES AND OBTAINS FOOD, WASTE, shelter, and space

Habitat degradation is when there is damage and destruction to the habit

Habitat destruction: human modification and degradation of nature forests, grasslands, wetlands, and waterways

- Accelerated rates of destruction in 20th century due to human population growth
- Most serious threat to species around the globe
- Caused by human use and development

Habitat fragmentation - Large nature areas subdivided to small areas

- More commonly caused by human activity
- Especially threatening to large predators

### **Extinctions disrupt food chains**

Food chain: linear flow of energy within an ecosystem, energy flow in one direction

Sun → producer → primary consumers → secondary consumers

- Producers: photosynthetic organisms
- Primary consumers: feed on producers
- Secondary consumers: predators that feed on primary consumers

Trophic level: a level of the food chain

### **Extinctions disrupt trophic levels**

Trophic pyramid: the flow of energy along a food chain

- Most biomass (total weight) at the bottom level
- Much energy is lost as heat between levels
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### **The Consequences of Extinction**

Biological community: all of the organisms living together in a particular habitat area

- Ecological niche: the role or "job" of the species
- Humans benefit from the community species

Food web

### **Nonnative species lead to extinctions too**

Introduced (invasive) species: organisms brought by human activity, either accidentally or purposely, to new environments

- Dangerous to native species due to a lack of coevolution: groups of species adapt to each other through natural selection
- Native species have

### **Overexploitation is a major cause of extinction.**

Overexploitation: when the rate of human use of a species outpaces its reproduction

- If organism

### **Pollution is the final cause of extinctions**

pollution: the release of poisons, excess nutrients, and other waste products into the environment

Excess nutrients flowing into water

- Increases algal production
- may produce toxic

**Extinction affect ecological relationships**

Mutualism : interactions between two species that benefit each other

Commensalism : relationship in which one species benefits and other is unaffected.

Predator: species that survive by eating another species

Competition : occurs when two species require the same resources for life

**Extinctions affect keystone species**

**Keystone species:** play a dramatic role in determining the composition of a system's food web, may have indirect effects on the community