

Reading Comprehension Quiz for: “The Biodiversity Crisis – Are Humans Causing a Sixth Mass Extinction?” and “Conservation of Biodiversity”

- 1) Approximately how many species have been driven to extinction in the last 500 years?
 - A. 17,000
 - B. 2000
 - C. 800
 - D. 25
 - E. None

- 2) Of the species on the IUCN Red List, which group has the greatest percentage of threatened species?
 - A. Mammals
 - B. Birds
 - C. Reptiles
 - D. Amphibians
 - E. Fish

- 3) What percentage of Earth’s species died out during each of the five most severe mass extinctions in the fossil record?
 - A. 10–20%
 - B. 30–40%
 - C. 45–50%
 - D. 50–75%
 - E. >75%

- 4) According to the studies cited in the articles you just read, how much greater is the current extinction rate than the average background extinction rate of the last 542 million years?
 - A. 0–5 times greater than the background rate
 - B. 510 times greater than the background rate
 - C. 5075 times greater than the background rate
 - D. 1001000 greater than the background rate
 - E. 100,00001,000,000 times greater than the background rate

- 5) Unlike the five big mass extinctions in the geological record, the current wave of extinctions is caused by _____?
 - A. Human activity
 - B. Volcanism
 - C. Sea level changes
 - D. Changes in ocean chemistry
 - E. Asteroid impact

6) What is the greatest human-driven threat to biodiversity right now?

- A. Climate change
- B. Habitat loss
- C. Spread of disease
- D. Overhunting
- E. Inbreeding

7) There are multiple arguments for conserving biodiversity. One of these is that biodiversity provides us with things like food, medicine, fibers, and wood products. These are examples of _____?

- A. Spiritual benefits
- B. Biological resources
- C. Recreational benefits
- D. Ecosystem services
- E. Ethical reasons

8) Pollination is an example of a/an _____ provided by biodiversity.

- A. biological resource
- B. spiritual benefit
- C. recreational benefit
- D. ecosystem service
- E. cultural benefit

9) According to the Conservation of Biodiversity article, which of the following is *not* a social and/or spiritual reason for protecting biodiversity?

- A. Rights of indigenous peoples to sacred places
- B. Ecotourism
- C. Aesthetic value
- D. Source of genes for genetic engineering
- E. Intrinsic value

10) Ecotourism involves which of the following?

- A. Development of folk art
- B. Development of local irrigation and terracing systems
- C. Travel with the desire to view, sustain, and support natural ecosystems and local cultures.
- D. Water purification by soils and wetland plants
- E. Using the chemical nature of spider's silk to design strong, lightweight fibers