

Wk 8 Extinction in the Modern World

Text Pages 14-21

Classification System for At-Risk Species

Match the description with the correct classification:

- A. Endangered _____ At risk because of low or declining numbers
- B. Extinct _____ Likely to become endangered if factors making it vulnerable are not reversed
- C. Extirpated _____ No longer exists in at least one part of Canada but is still found in other parts
- D. Threatened _____ Close to extinction in all parts of Canada
- E. Vulnerable _____ No longer found anywhere

Humans & Extinction

1. What relationship exists between human population growth and species extinction rates?

2. How is the number of species at risk of extinction currently changing?

3. What is a mass extinction? What is the most famous mass extinction?

4. What do scientists believe caused many of the mass extinctions in the past?

5. Briefly explain how climate change and competition affect extinction in general.

6. What is biodiversity? Why is it important for ecosystems?

7. Give an example of an ecosystem with high biodiversity and an ecosystem with low biodiversity.

8. Why would a golf course have less biodiversity than a natural ecosystem? How might the lower biodiversity affect surrounding ecosystems?

9. Read “What is the Value of Wolves” on pages 20-21. Classify the at-risk status of the wolf in and around Yellowstone National Park...

- a) before European settlers arrived _____
- b) during the bison hunt _____
- c) after ranchers arrived _____
- d) in 1996 _____