



BIODIVERSITY

Quiz: Species and extinction (BBC)

Scientists warn that human activities may be bringing about the sixth mass extinction of species in the world's history. Test your knowledge.

- There are an estimated 13-14 million species in the world. How many of those have been recorded and described?
 - 1.75 million
 - 5 million
 - 7 million
 - 11 million
- What is the biggest threat to species?
 - Habitat loss
 - Hunting, fishing and collecting
 - Alien invasive species
- How many plant species are used in medicines worldwide?
 - 100 – 200
 - 1,000 – 2,000
 - 10,000 – 20,000
 - 100,000 – 200,000
- Which country has the most endangered plants in the world?
 - Indonesia
 - Malaysia
 - Ecuador
 - Brazil
- Wild wheat varieties found in Turkey have a genetic property valued at \$US50 million a year. What is it?
 - Resistance to pesticides
 - High levels of vitamin A
 - Resistance to plant disease
 - Twice yearly crops
- The Sumatran tiger is at risk of extinction. Which everyday product is behind the threat?
 - Hamburgers - the tiger's rainforest home is being cut down to make way for cattle.
 - Paper – logging companies are exploiting the forests for paper pulp.
 - Toothpaste – workers collecting an ingredient from the sap of a certain tree are disturbing the tigers' breeding cycle.
 - All of the above are true.

7. What happened when a predatory snail from the US was introduced on the Pacific island of Moorea to control an imported African edible snail?
- A: The edible snails' shells were too tough to crack, so the predatory snails died out.
 - B: The predatory snail picked up a local disease, which was then carried back to the US in imported goods.
 - C: Instead of eating the African edible snail, the predator turned on a local species, which is now at risk of dying out.
 - D: The predatory snail was palatable to a local monkey species, and the sudden abundance of food triggered a population explosion.
8. During the 1990s, by how much was the Earth's forest cover reduced every minute?
- A: 0.37 football pitches
 - B: 3.7 football pitches
 - C: 37 football pitches
 - D: 370 football pitches
9. Dinosaurs were wiped out in the mass extinction 65 million years ago - or were they? Which modern day group of animals do many experts say are technically dinosaurs?
- A: Crocodiles
 - B: Komodo dragons
 - C: Frogs
 - D: Birds

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