

1.3 Extinction in the Modern World pp 16-19

With your partner, use the information on pp 16-19 to answer the questions below.

1. Explain why the passenger pigeon became extinct.
2. Explain the effect humans have had on extinction rates.
3. How could an asteroid hitting Earth cause extinction?
4. Explain how each of the following factors could lead to the extinction of a species. For each explanation, give an example of a threatened species.
 - a) Poor reproductive success.
 - b) Competition from an introduced species.
 - c) Climate change.
 - d) Hunting by humans.
5.
 - a) Explain the term biodiversity in your own words.
 - b) Why is biodiversity important to a successful ecosystem?
 - c) Give an example of an ecosystem that has high biodiversity and one that has low biodiversity.
6. Which would have higher biodiversity, a golf course, or a natural field ecosystem? Explain why you answered as you did.
7. The common cockroach is an example of a species that has benefited from human activity.
 - a) Hypothesize why the cockroach has benefited from human activity.
 - b) Imagine a pesticide company is developing a chemical that will kill all cockroaches. Would it be wise to cause the extinction of the common cockroach? Justify your position.
 - c) Animals like raccoons and squirrels do well in artificial ecosystems. What characteristics do they have that have made them successful?