

Living Resources ▪ *Guided Reading and Study*

Biodiversity

This section describes factors that affect biodiversity, or the number of species in an area. The section also explains why biodiversity is valuable, how it is being threatened, and what is being done to protect it.

Use Target Reading Skills

After you read this section, reread the paragraphs that contain definitions of Key Terms. On a separate sheet of paper, use all the information you have learned to write a meaningful sentence using each Key Term.

Introduction

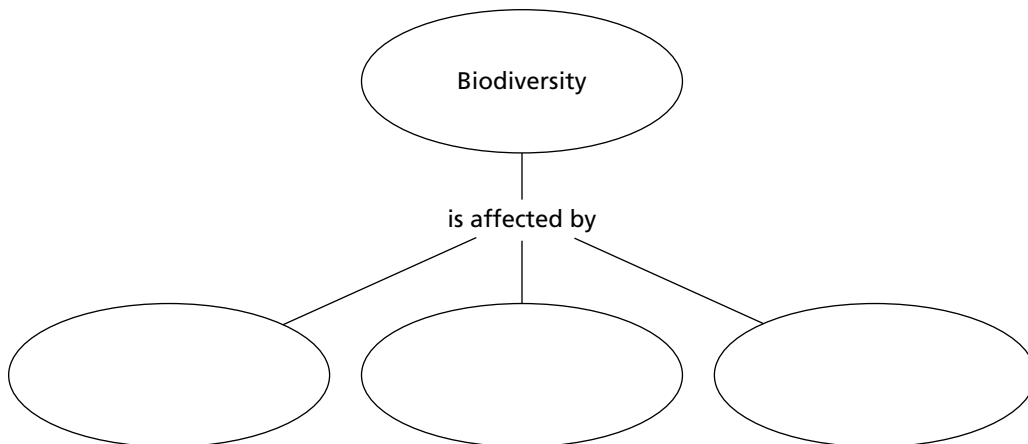
1. The number of different species in an area is called its _____.

The Value of Biodiversity

2. Is the following sentence true or false? Biodiversity has no economic value. _____
3. A species that influences the survival of many other species in an ecosystem is called a(n) _____.
4. Is the following sentence true or false? If a keystone species disappears, the entire ecosystem may change. _____

Factors Affecting Biodiversity

5. Complete the concept map.



6. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about biodiversity.
 - a. Large areas contain more species than small areas.
 - b. The number of species decreases from the poles toward the equator.
 - c. Tropical rain forests are the most diverse ecosystems.
 - d. Coral reefs are the second most diverse ecosystems.

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7. What is niche diversity?

Gene Pool Diversity

8. Structures in an organism’s cells that carry its hereditary information are called _____.

9. The individual differences in genes among members of a species make up the total _____ of that species.

10. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about plant species with diverse gene pools.

- a. They are better able to resist parasites.
- b. They are less able to adapt to drought.
- c. They can better tolerate fungus attacks.
- d. They are less able to survive disease.

Extinction of Species

11. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about extinction.

- a. It is a natural process.
- b. Many species are now extinct.
- c. Extinctions have occurred only in the last few centuries.
- d. The number of species becoming extinct has increased dramatically.

12. Is the following sentence true or false? Once a population drops below a certain level, the species may not be able to recover. _____

13. Complete the compare/contrast table.

Extinction of Species	
Category of Species	Status
	Has disappeared from Earth
	Could become extinct in the near future
	Could become endangered in the near future



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Biodiversity *(continued)*

Causes of Extinction

14. What natural events might cause extinction?

15. Is the following sentence true or false? The major cause of extinction is habitat fragmentation. _____

Match the term with its definition.

Term	Definition
____ 16. habitat destruction	a. Breaking larger habitats into smaller, isolated pieces
____ 17. habitat fragmentation	b. Illegally killing or removing wildlife from their habitats
____ 18. poaching	c. Loss of a natural habitat

19. How can pollutants affect organisms? _____

Protecting Biodiversity

20. The mating of animals in zoos or wildlife preserves to protect severely endangered species is called _____.

21. Is the following sentence true or false? Laws can help protect individual species. _____

22. Is the following sentence true or false? The most effective way to preserve biodiversity is to protect individual species.
