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Species Extinction

Extinct species are species of organisms that no longer exist on Earth. Extinction occurs when a species dies out completely because of natural or human activities. It is not just animals that become extinct. It can also include plants, animals, fungi, and bacteria.

There have been many extinct species throughout the history of life on Earth. Some scientists think that 99% of all species that have ever lived are now extinct. Some well-known examples of extinct species include the dinosaurs, the dodo bird, the woolly mammoth, the passenger pigeon, and the Tasmanian tiger.



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There are many extinct species that have existed on Earth, and the list of known extinct species continues to grow as new discoveries are made. Here are some examples of extinct species:

1. Dinosaurs: Went extinct around 66 million years ago, likely as a result of a asteroid impact.
2. Dodo bird: Went extinct in the 17th century.
3. Woolly mammoth: Went extinct around 4,000 years ago.
4. Saber-toothed tiger: Went extinct around 10,000 years ago.
5. Tasmanian tiger: Went extinct in the early 20th century.
6. The passenger pigeon: Went extinct in the early 20th century.

The Dinosaur Extinction:

The extinction of dinosaurs is one of the most well-known examples of a mass extinction event. Dinosaurs went extinct about 66 million years ago.



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The impact also kicked up massive amounts of dust and debris into the atmosphere, blocking out sunlight and causing a sudden and severe cooling of the Earth's climate which would have been catastrophic for dinosaurs and many other species.

The Dodo Bird Extinction

The dodo bird was a flightless bird that went extinct in the late 17th century.

When humans first arrived on the island of Mauritius where it lived, they brought with them a variety of animals, including rats, pigs, and monkeys. These animals ate and destroyed the dodo bird's eggs and chicks. Also, humans hunted the dodo bird for its meat, which was said to be quite tasty.



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The Woolly Mammoth



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Scientists think a few things caused the extinction of the woolly mammoth.

One of the main factors was likely hunting by early humans, who relied on the mammoths for food and materials such as ivory.

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Some scientists are working to bring back the woolly mammoth through genetic engineering.

The Saber-Toothed Tiger Extinction

The saber-toothed tiger was a large carnivorous mammal that lived between 2.6 million to 11,700 years ago.

One theory is that climate change played a role in the extinction of the saber-toothed tiger. Earth's climate is characterized by a series of ice ages and nearing the end of their time on Earth, the climate became colder and drier. This may have caused changes to the ecosystems in which the saber-toothed tiger lived, making it more difficult for the animal to find food and survive.



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The Tasmanian Tiger Extinction

The Tasmanian tiger was a carnivorous marsupial that was native to Tasmania, an island off the southern coast of Australia. It was not part of the tiger or dog family but looked similar to them.



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When European settlers arrived in Tasmania in the early 19th century, they brought with them a variety of domesticated animals, including sheep, cattle, and pigs. These animals were easy prey for the Tasmanian tiger, and the tiger soon became a target of farmers and hunters who saw it as a threat to their livestock.



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In addition to hunting, humans destroyed the Tasmanian tiger's habitat making it more difficult for the animal to find food and mates.

The last known Tasmanian tiger died in captivity in 1936.

The Passenger Pigeon Extinction

The passenger pigeon once had a population of 3 to 5 billion! However, due to human hunting and habitat loss, the passenger pigeon went extinct in the early 20th century.



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The bird played an important ecological role in the forests where it lived, and its disappearance may have had far-reaching effects on the ecosystems it inhabited.

It is important to protect endangered species so that they don't become extinct for several reasons:

Biodiversity:



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Economic value: Some species have economic value, such as those that are used to make medicines, food, or other products.

Moral obligation:



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Reading Comprehension Questions:

1. What does it mean if a species is extinct?
2. How
3. What
4. Where was the dodo bird found before it went extinct?
5. What
6. What are
7. When did
8. What
9. Why was the extinction of the passenger pigeon so significant?

Extension Questions:

10. Research an



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