

A collage of various animals and plants arranged in a geometric pattern of triangles and quadrilaterals. The top-left triangle features a polar bear. The top-right triangle shows a landscape with green plants and yellow flowers under a blue sky with birds. The bottom-left triangle depicts a butterfly on a pink flower. The bottom-right triangle shows a tiger's face. The central text "Biodiversity At Risk" is overlaid on the collage.

Biodiversity At Risk

What is biodiversity


- Refers to number of **different species** in an area
 - The number of species known to science is about **1.9 million**
 - The actual number of species is **unknown**
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Biodiversity at risk

- An endangered species is likely to become extinct
- A threatened species is likely to become endangered
- An endemic species is native to only a specific area



Humans cause extinction in several different ways

Habitat Destruction


- As human populations grow, we use more land to construct buildings and harvest resources
- In the process, we destroy habitats of other species

Humans cause extinction in several different ways

Overharvesting, Overhunting, and Poaching

- Excessive harvesting and hunting can lead to extinction
 - Poaching is the illegal hunting of certain species
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Humans cause extinction in several different ways

Invasive Exotic Species

- An exotic species is a species not native to an ecosystem
- Able to threaten native species that have no natural defense against them



Humans cause extinction in several different ways

Pollution

- Pesticides, cleaning agents, drugs, and other chemicals can make their way into food web



Preserving Habitats and Ecosystems

- The Endangered Species Act
 1. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must compile a list of all endangered and threatened species in the United States
 2. Endangered and threatened animal species may not be caught or killed. Endangered and threatened plants on federal land may not be uprooted. No part of an endangered and threatened species may be sold or traded
 3. The federal government may not carry out any project that jeopardizes endangered species
 4. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must prepare a species recovery plan for each endangered and threatened species

