

Section 6–3 Biodiversity (pages 150–156)

This section describes the current threats to biodiversity. It also explains the goal of conservation biology.

The Value of Biodiversity (page 150)

1. What is biodiversity? _____

2. Complete the table about diversity.

DIVERSITY IN THE BIOSPHERE

Type of Diversity	Definition
Ecosystem diversity	
Species diversity	
Genetic diversity	

3. Why is biodiversity one of Earth’s greatest natural resources? _____

Threats to Biodiversity (page 151)

4. What are four ways that human activity can reduce biodiversity?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
5. When does extinction occur? _____

- 6. A species whose population size is declining in a way that places it in danger of extinction is called a(an) _____.
- 7. Why does a declining population make a species more vulnerable to extinction?

Habitat Alteration (page 151)

- 8. The process of splitting a habitat into small pieces is called _____.
- 9. What is the relationship between biological “island” size and the number of species that can live there? _____

Demand for Wildlife Products (page 151)

- 10. Why are species hunted? _____

Pollution (page 152)

- 11. What is DDT? _____
- 12. What two properties of DDT make it hazardous over the long term? _____

- 13. What is biological magnification? _____

Introduced Species (page 153)

- 14. Plants and animals that have migrated to places where they are not native are called _____.
- 15. Why do invasive species reproduce rapidly and increase their populations?

Conserving Biodiversity (pages 154–156)

16. What is conservation? _____

17. What is the purpose of conservation biology? _____

18. What does protecting an ecosystem ensure? _____

19. What are some of the challenges that conservationists face? _____

Reading Skill Practice

Writing a summary can help you remember the information you have read. When you write a summary, write only the important points. Write a summary of the information in Section 6–3. Your summary should be shorter than the text on which it is based.