

Task 1. Read the text and for questions 1-7 choose the correct answer (a-d).

Biodiversity is a term used to describe the enormous variety of life on Earth. It can be used more specifically to refer to all of the species in one region or ecosystem. Biodiversity refers to every living thing, including plants, bacteria, animals, and humans. Scientists have estimated that there are around 8.7 million species of plants and animals in existence. However, only around 1.2 million species have been identified and described so far, most of which are insects. This means that millions of other organisms remain a complete mystery.

Over generations, all of the species that are currently alive today have evolved unique traits that make them distinct from other species. These differences are what scientists use to tell one species from another. Organisms that have evolved to be so different from one another that they can no longer reproduce with each other are considered different species. All organisms that can reproduce with each other fall into one species.

Scientists are interested in how much biodiversity there is on a global scale, given that there is still so much biodiversity to discover. They also study how many species exist in single ecosystems, such as a forest, grassland, tundra, or lake. A single grassland can contain a wide range of species, from beetles to snakes to antelopes. Ecosystems that host the most biodiversity tend to have ideal environmental conditions for plant growth, like the warm and wet climate of tropical regions. Ecosystems can also contain species too small to see with the naked eye. Looking at samples of soil or water through a microscope reveals a whole world of bacteria and other tiny organisms.

Some areas in the world, such as areas of Mexico, South Africa, Brazil, the southwestern United States, and Madagascar, have more biodiversity than others. Areas with extremely high levels of biodiversity are called hotspots. Endemic species—species that are only found in one particular location - are also found in hotspots.

All of the Earth's species work together to survive and maintain their ecosystems. For example, the grass in pastures feeds cattle. Cattle then produce manure that returns nutrients to the soil, which helps to grow more grass. This manure can also be used to fertilize cropland. Many species provide important benefits to humans, including food, clothing, and medicine.

Much of the Earth's biodiversity, however, is in jeopardy due to human consumption and other activities that disturb and even destroy ecosystems. Pollution, climate change, and population growth are all threats to biodiversity. These threats have caused an unprecedented rise in the rate of species extinction. Some scientists estimate that half of all species on Earth will be wiped out within the next century. Conservation efforts are necessary to preserve biodiversity and protect endangered species and their habitats.

1. What is the primary purpose of discussing biodiversity in the passage?

- a. To highlight the importance of conservation efforts
- b. To provide a comprehensive overview of all species on Earth
- c. To explain the complex interactions within ecosystems
- d. To describe the factors that contribute to high biodiversity

2. According to the passage, what is the main reason scientists can distinguish one species from another?

- a. Differences in their physical characteristics
- b. Their geographic distribution and habitats
- c. The environmental conditions of their ecosystems
- d. Their ability to reproduce and create viable offspring

3. Which of the following best describes the role of smaller organisms in ecosystems?

- a. They are too small to have any significant impact.
- b. They are primarily responsible for maintaining the balance of ecosystems.

- c. They are often overlooked but play a crucial role in ecosystem functioning.
- d. They are less important than larger, more visible species.

4. Why are certain regions of the world considered "biodiversity hotspots"?

- a. They have the highest concentration of endemic species.
- b. They experience the most severe threats to biodiversity.
- c. They have the largest population of endangered species.
- d. They possess the most diverse range of ecosystems.

5. Which of the following is identified in the passage as a threat to biodiversity?

- a. Overpopulation of certain species
- b. Habitat fragmentation and destruction
- c. Lack of conservation efforts and policies
- d. All of the above

6. How do species within an ecosystem typically interact to maintain a balanced environment?

- a. They rely on each other for food and resources.
- b. They compete for the same limited resources.
- c. They adapt to changes in the environment independently.
- d. They form symbiotic relationships to ensure their survival.

7. What is the primary message or takeaway from the passage regarding biodiversity?

- a. Biodiversity is a complex and understudied topic.
- b. Preserving biodiversity is crucial for the health of ecosystems.
- c. Biodiversity is primarily threatened by human activities and consumption.
- d. Biodiversity is an essential component of the Earth's natural systems.

Task 2. Match the words from column A with words from column B to create meaningful collocations.

1. National	a) protection
2. Environmental	b) stability
3. Biological	c) factors
4. Ecological	d) wealth
5. Natural	e) functioning
6. anthropogenic	f) diversity
7. Ecosystem	g) loss
8. Species	h) degradation
9. biodiversity	i) ecosystems
10. habitat	j) extinction

Task 3. Fill in the gaps in the sentences with the most appropriate collocation from the task 2.

1. _____ is vital for the biosphere organization, as it supports the structural and functional integrity of ecosystems.
2. Maintaining _____ depends heavily on the energy circulation facilitated by diverse species and ecosystems.
3. Climate change poses a significant threat to _____ by altering temperature and precipitation patterns.
4. Human activities have significantly impacted _____, leading to species extinction and loss of biodiversity.
5. _____, such as habitat destruction and pollution, pose significant threats to natural ecosystems and species diversity.
6. _____ caused by deforestation and urban expansion reduces the availability of resources for many wildlife species.
7. _____ often results in the decline of ecosystem functions, such as pollination and soil fertility, which are vital for agriculture.
8. Education and awareness campaigns are essential to engage the public in preventing _____.
9. The government prioritizes _____ as a means to achieve socio-economic development and improve the quality of life for its citizens.
10. Biodiversity is considered a crucial part of Ukraine's _____, necessitating strong state policy to ensure its preservation.

Task 4. Match the terms with their definitions.

Extinction: Ecosystem Diversity: Conservation: Biodiversity Hotspot: Protected Area: Ecosystem Services: Species Diversity: Genetic Diversity: Abiotic Factors: Habitat: Biotic Factors:

- _____ The variety of different species within a particular area or ecosystem.
- _____ The variety of genes within a species or population, contributing to its ability to adapt to environmental changes.
- _____ The range of different habitats, communities, and ecological processes within a given area.
- _____ The natural environment in which a species lives, including all the resources it needs for survival.

- _____ Regions that are both rich in endemic species and have experienced significant habitat loss.
- _____ The practice of protecting and preserving natural environments and the species that inhabit them.
- _____ The benefits that ecosystems provide to humans, such as clean air, water purification, and pollination.
- _____ The complete loss of a species from a particular area or from the planet entirely.
- _____ Regions designated and managed to conserve biodiversity and natural resources, such as national parks and wildlife reserves.
- _____ The living components of an ecosystem, such as plants, animals, and microorganisms.
- _____ The non-living components of an ecosystem, including climate, soil, and water.

Task 5. Some parts of the sentences were removed. Fill in the gaps in the sentences with the most appropriate variant from a-j.

1. The vast variety of life forms on Earth, from microorganisms to large mammals, _____.
 2. Different ecosystems, such as rainforests, deserts, and oceans, _____.
 3. _____ to ensure its resilience against environmental changes and disturbances.
 4. The genetic differences within and between species play a crucial role _____.
 5. _____ the numerous species that rely on them for survival.
 6. The variety of life in a coral reef, _____, illustrates the complex interactions within marine environments.
 7. Forests around the world are home to countless plant and animal species, each _____.
 8. Agricultural practices that promote diverse crops and livestock can enhance _____.
 9. Urbanization and deforestation are major threats to the variety of species _____.
 10. Education about the importance of protecting different types of life on Earth _____.
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- a) each support a unique array of species that contribute to the planet's overall health.
 - b) in their ability to adapt to changing conditions.
 - c) contributing to the ecological balance and functioning of these ecosystems
 - d) is a testament to the planet's rich ecological heritage.
 - e) can foster greater appreciation and support for conservation efforts
 - f) Maintaining a wide range of species in an ecosystem helps
 - g) soil health and reduce the risk of pest outbreaks
 - h) Conservation efforts focus on protecting diverse habitats to preserve
 - i) that once thrived in natural landscapes
 - j) with its many different fish, invertebrates, and plants