

Conservation Biology: Protecting Our Planet's Treasures

Conservation Biology · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. Which term describes the variety of life on Earth, including all plants, animals, fungi, and microorganisms, as well as the ecosystems they inhabit?

- A) Habitat fragmentation
- B) Species richness
- C) Biodiversity**
- D) Ecological niche

2. What is a major threat to many species that results from the breaking up of large, continuous habitats into smaller, isolated patches?

- A) Invasive species
- B) Habitat fragmentation**
- C) Pollution
- D) Climate change

3. An animal that is at a very high risk of becoming extinct in the wild is classified as:

- A) Least Concern
- B) Near Threatened
- C) Vulnerable
- D) Critically Endangered**

4. The process where a species permanently disappears from Earth is called:

- A) Endemism
- B) Evolution
- C) Extinction**
- D) Adaptation

5. Which Australian marsupial is critically endangered due to habitat loss and introduced predators like foxes and cats?

- A) Koala
- B) Kangaroo
- C) Quokka
- D) Leadbeater's Possum**

6. What is the primary role of a conservation scientist when studying a species that is declining?

- A) To breed more individuals in captivity
- B) To create new habitats for the species
- C) To understand the threats and find solutions**
- D) To move the species to a different country

7. A species that has been introduced to an area where it doesn't naturally occur and causes harm to the environment or native species is called an:

- A) Endemic species
- B) Keystone species
- C) Indicator species
- D) Invasive species**

8. What is the term for the place or type of environment where a particular species lives and finds its food, water, shelter, and reproduces?

- A) Ecosystem
- B) Biodiversity hotspot
- C) Habitat**
- D) Niche

9. The Great Barrier Reef, a vast coral reef system, faces threats like coral bleaching caused by rising ocean temperatures. This is an example of:

- A) Habitat restoration
- B) Climate change impact**
- C) Overexploitation
- D) Pollution reduction

10. What is a 'biodiversity hotspot'?

- A) An area with very few species
- B) An area that is very cold and icy
- C) A region with a high number of endemic species that is under threat**
- D) A place where humans have removed all native plants

11. Zoos and aquariums can play a role in conservation by:

- A) Allowing visitors to take animals home
- B) Breeding endangered species for release back into the wild**
- C) Using animals for entertainment only
- D) Introducing new diseases to wild populations

12. Which of the following is a major cause of habitat loss for many rainforest animals?

A) Deforestation for farming and logging

B) Increased rainfall

C) The growth of native plants

D) A decrease in pollution

13. What does the term 'keystone species' refer to?

A) A species that is very common

B) A species that has no impact on its ecosystem

C) A species that has a disproportionately large effect on its environment relative to its abundance

D) A species that only eats plants

14. Conservation efforts often focus on protecting 'critical habitats'. What makes a habitat 'critical'?

A) It is very large and can support many species

B) It is essential for the survival of a species, especially for breeding or migration

C) It is easily accessible to humans for tourism

D) It has a high number of invasive species

15. The process of reintroducing native species into areas where they have been lost is known as:

A) Habitat destruction

B) Habitat restoration

C) Species introduction

D) Urbanization

16. The illegal hunting or capturing of wild animals is called:

A) Sustainable harvesting

B) Ecotourism

C) Poaching

D) Conservation farming

17. Why is it important to conserve amphibians like frogs and salamanders?

A) They are not important to the environment

B) They are sensitive to pollution and can act as indicator species for ecosystem health

C) They only live in very common habitats

D) They are known to spread diseases to humans

18. What is a 'gene bank' in conservation biology?

A) A place where animals are kept for zoos

B) A location that stores seeds or genetic material from plants and animals to preserve genetic diversity

C) A reserve for endangered species to breed freely

D) A museum for extinct animal skeletons