

Animals and Nature in World History

World History · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which bird species, famously documented by Dutch sailors in the 17th century, became extinct on the island of Mauritius due to hunting and introduced predators?

- A) Dodo**
- B) Great Auk
- C) Moa
- D) Passenger Pigeon

2. What catastrophic environmental event in 536 AD, caused by a massive volcanic eruption, led to global cooling and crop failures for several years?

- A) The Year Without a Summer
- B) The Late Antique Little Ice Age**
- C) The Toba Supervolcano
- D) The Dust Veil

3. During the 1930s, what human-induced environmental disaster in the United States and Canada was caused by severe drought and poor farming practices?

- A) The Great Flood
- B) The Dust Bowl**
- C) The Everglades Drainage
- D) The Coal Smoke Disaster

4. Which animal was intentionally introduced to Australia in 1859 by Thomas Austin for hunting, subsequently causing significant ecological damage?

- A) Red Fox
- B) Feral Camel
- C) European Rabbit**
- D) Cane Toad

5. What ancient civilization is credited with the domestication of the Bactrian camel, which became essential for traversing the Silk Road?

- A) The Mesopotamians
- B) The Bactrians**
- C) The Romans
- D) The Egyptians

6. In 19th-century London, what major public health crisis was linked to the contamination of the River Thames, leading to the construction of a modern sewer system?

A) The Great Stink

- B) The Industrial Plague
- C) The Fog of 1850
- D) The Cholera Outbreak of 1832

7. What domesticated animal, native to the Andean mountains, was historically vital to the Inca Empire for transport and wool?

A) Alpaca

B) Llama

- C) Guanaco
- D) Vicuna

8. Which 1962 book by Rachel Carson is often credited with launching the modern environmental movement by exposing the dangers of pesticides like DDT?

A) The Lorax

B) Silent Spring

- C) A Sand County Almanac
- D) Walden

9. What species of large mammal was hunted to near extinction by European settlers and the U.S. government in the 19th century to undermine Indigenous Plains cultures?

A) Bison

- B) Moose
- C) Elk
- D) Grizzly Bear

10. What natural phenomenon, described by early Polynesian voyagers, involves the periodic warming of ocean temperatures in the Pacific that impacts global weather patterns?

A) Monsoon

B) El Niño

- C) Trade Winds
- D) Jet Stream