

Animals are Going Extinct & It's All Our Fault

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Animals are going extinct and humanity is part of the reason why. Different species of animals are getting closer to being extinct every day and it's partly our fault. According to Oxford University Museum of Natural History, extinction is when a specific animal or plant dies out and there are no more individuals of that particular species left in the world. 60% of mammals, birds, marine animals, reptiles, and amphibians have declined between 1970 and 2014. There are many animals that need our help. We are currently losing about 150-200 species every day. For example, Tasmanian Tigers went extinct because they got killed by farmers and habitat destruction. There are many different reasons why these exotic creatures end up dying out. Sadly, newer generations won't be able to see these animals.

There are many different types of animals that have gone extinct that you may not know about. These animals went extinct due to habitat destruction, pollution, lack of food, poaching, natural forces, and climate changes. For example, Tasmanian Tigers went extinct around 1936. These creatures were viewed as a threat to farmers. They blamed the animals for killing sheep and poultry. The government put a bounty on them too. Unfortunately, Tasmanian Tigers also went extinct due to habitat destruction. Humans are destroying trees when animals are living in them.

Another example is the quagga. These quaggas were related to zebras. They had these creatures prized for their unique skin. It became extinct after it had been mercilessly hunted. The last captive died on August 12, 1883. There is only one picture of the quagga alive and there is twenty-three skins preserved today.

The Carolina parakeets were driven to extinction by habitat destruction, disease, and pest control. Many farmers thought these magnificent creatures were pests because they ate apples from orchards. Their colorful feathers were popular for decorating women's hats. Honeybees also contributed to the Carolina parakeet extinction by taking their nests. Some people believe that the poultry disease led to the extinction too. Other animals have different causes to their extinction.

Many other animals go extinct because of pollution. The earth is estimated to have lost about half of its water corals in the last 30 years. One reason is litter. Litter comes from many sources, including containers falling off ships and trash that washes off the city streets that go into the sea. It contaminates the oceans which put marine animals at risk. They are sensitive to traces of toxic chemicals that go into lakes, rivers and oceans. Other animals think plastic bags are food. They try eating it which harms them. Humans are either too lazy to throw the trash away or they forget about it.

Every animal needs a certain amount of territory. 20% of the Amazon has been destroyed in the last 50 years. They need a sizeable area in which they can breed, hunt, and raise young. Animal habitats are known to get destroyed by fires, people cutting down trees, and pollution. People cut down trees to create paper and then waste them by barely using it and throwing it away. Along with defacing the natural homes of many animals, these set factors also contribute to rising climate change. With all of these changes, many different species have to adapt to the new climate patterns. In addition, people sometimes hunt animals to extinction. For example, there used to be billions of passenger pigeons but people started intensely hunting them.

There are many animal species that are slowly declining every year. Insects are slowly decreasing by more than 75% in the past 28 years. This is pretty alarming because wild plants depend on bees for pollination. 60% of bird species rely on insects for food. For example, the Amur leopard is on the brink of extinction because of habitat destruction. There are only 30 vaquita left in the world. These creatures are the smallest marine mammal. The south China tiger is that smallest of all tiger species, people say there might be under 20 tigers left in wild. The arctic fox is also endangered due to hunting and has decreased in line with the decline in the fur trade.

There are many things we can do to save these endangered species. For example, we should recycle and buy sustainable products. When we buy furniture made of wood from many rainforests or endangered trees, they are being cut down and animals live in them. Wild animals get tangled in plastic containers. The trash that we don't throw away ourselves ends up being ingested by small fish. This contaminates fish that we eat. One of the biggest dangers that animals face are roads. On the road, we should slow down when driving. The roads divide an animal's habitat and present a constant hazard when attempting to get to the other side of the road. We can also use reusable bags instead of the plastic bags. We can reduce the amount of water we use and not pollute it. Never buy products made from endangered or threatened species. Poaching is wrong. We should be careful when we buy products made from polar bear fur, fur from tigers and sea otters, crocodile skin, live apes and monkeys, and most of our endangered birds. These simple solutions can make a huge difference for the animals and the world we live in.

Sources:

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