



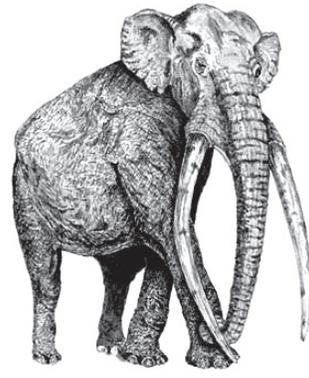
Learn more at:
biologicaldiversity.org/programs/biodiversity_elements_of_biodiversity/extinction_crisis

As species become extinct, we lose diversity, which is important for environmental stability. The extinction rate we are seeing today is much higher than the normal rate of one to five species per year, and species are becoming extinct each day! Unlike earlier periods of mass extinction in Earth's history, this one is not caused by natural events. This time it's almost all due to human activities. As species become extinct, we lose diversity, which is important for environmental stability.

NOT ALL SPECIES EXIST FOREVER.



**GOING,
GOING,
GONE!**



SELF-GUIDED TOUR
 estimated time = less than 1 hour

TRY THE ACTIVITY
 Unfold this paper and in the middle. See if you can find all the animals in the Museum!

The MSU Museum has examples of many of these animals. The animal specimens you will see were acquired by the Museum in accordance with law and museum requirements.

- Lower risk
- Threatened (Going, Going)
- Vulnerable-high risk in medium-term future
- Endangered-high risk in near future
- Extinct (Gone)
- Extinct in the wild
- Extinct everywhere

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has made the "Red List" of animal species based on how concerned we need to be about their survival. Animals on the "Red List" can be listed as:

GOING, GOING, BACK!

Good news! The Endangered Species Act is an important federal law that protects wildlife and plants. This Act, along with other human efforts, has helped bring some species back from near extinction.



NAME	LOWEST POPULATION	TAKEN OFF RED LIST
American Bald Eagle	1963: 417 nesting pairs	2007: 9,789 nesting pairs
Gray Wolf	1960: 300 individuals	2013: 5,443 in lower 48 states



MSU Museum Education Team
 409 W. Circle Drive
 East Lansing, MI 48824
 museumed@msu.edu



ANSWERS: 1. Trilobite, 2. Saber-toothed Cat, 3. Mastodon, 4. Asian Elephant, 5. Stegosaurus, 6. Pangolin, 7. Kiwi, 8. Giant Anteater

GROUND FLOOR

Hall of Evolution

1

What big eyes I have!
They helped me see
under water. Feel my
ridges. I am a...

EXTINCT

2

What big pointed
teeth I have! I am an
extinct cat, and I have
modern day relatives
in Asia that are
vulnerable. I am a...

EXTINCT

3

What a big animal I am!
I look like an elephant,
but I'm not one. I ate
plants with my molars.
You can find my skull at
the top of the 2nd Floor
stairs. I am a...

EXTINCT

FACTOID:

Passenger pigeons became extinct due to excess hunting and deforestation in the 19th century. The last one, Martha, died at the Cincinnati Zoo in 1914

Directions: Find each of the animals in the galleries. Write the name of each animal as you find it. The answers are on the back of this sheet.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

FACTOID:

Farming (for food, building materials, and many other things) threatens habitats. Know the source of what you're buying.

GO UP THE STAIRS

FLOOR 2

Landing Gallery and Habitat Hall

4

What big tusks I have! My relatives next to me have even larger tusks! I am an...

VULNERABLE

FACTOID:

Since 1986, the Asian elephant population has declined by at least 50%.

6

What hard "scales" I have! I'm not a lizard, but I look a lot like one. I am a...

VULNERABLE

7

What a long bill I have!
My name is also the name of a fruit. I can't fly and I lay the largest egg for a bird my size. I am a...

VULNERABLE

Hall of Animal Diversity

5

What big spikes I have! Other animals would have to watch out for my tail. I am a...

EXTINCT

FACTOID:

The whooping crane population was 16 in 1941, but now is 200 thanks to reintroduction.

8

What a long tongue I have! I eat little insects and have long hair. I am a...

VULNERABLE