

## Conservation of Biodiversity

- go to [jmazzabiology.com](http://jmazzabiology.com) and click on Links and Videos
  - Click link #25 under Ecology
  - Click on Conservation and Restoration
  - Under "Basic" click on *Conservation of Biodiversity*
- 1) What is the current estimate of the total number of species in the world (according to May, 2000)?
  - 2) What does the term "background extinction" mean? How does the current rate of species extinction compare to the background extinction rate?
  - 3) What is the primary cause of species extinction today?
  - 4) What are the three components of biodiversity? Which one do most people typically think of when they hear the term *biodiversity*?
  - 5) Why is genetic variation within a species an important part of biodiversity? How does genetic diversity allow a species to thrive?
  - 6) Why is focusing on preserving an ecosystem the most effective conservation approach to preventing species extinction?
  - 7) What are some biological resources that are important to us?
  - 8) What is biomimicry and why is biodiversity important to this field?
  - 9) What are ecosystem services? Why are ecosystem services sometimes overlooked?
  - 10) How do the ecosystem services of pollination and water purification benefit us?
  - 11) According to Henry David Thoreau's words below, what is another value of biodiversity?

*"This curious world which we inhabit is more wonderful than it is convenient; more beautiful than it is useful; it is more to be admired and enjoyed than it is to be used" (Thoreau, 1837).*