

Extinction Charts

Name: _____

Follow the instructions below to complete the charts about extinction. Your charts will look at the relationships among: an extinction event in Earth's past, the Holocene Extinction Event, and the gradual extinction of a species over geologic time.

Instructions: Look at the phrases below. Which extinction or extinctions does the phrase describe? Put an X in each correct column (*Note: Xs may go in more than one column.*) (1 point per row)

	Extinction Event in Earth's Past	Holocene Extinction Event	Gradual Extinction of a Species Over Geologic Time
A background extinction rate of 10–100 species per year			
Greater than 20% of all species on Earth become extinct			
Occurs over a very short period of time			
Occurs over a long period of time			

Instructions: Changes in ecosystems often lead to extinctions or changes in extinction rates. To which extinction or extinctions do these changes apply? Put an X in each correct column (*Note: Xs may go in more than one column.*) (1 point per row)

	Extinction Event in Earth's Past	Holocene Extinction Event	Gradual Extinction of a Species Over Geologic Time
Collision of a large asteroid with Earth			
Evolution of a new predator			
Evolution of a new competitor			
Large amount of volcanic activity			
Movement of the continents			
Rapid change in atmospheric carbon dioxide			
Rapid climate change			

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Instructions: Think of an example of each of these extinctions. Read the prompt on the left and fill in your answer in the appropriate column on the right. (1 point per cell)

	Extinction Event in Earth's Past	Holocene Extinction Event	Gradual Extinction of a Species Over Geologic Time
Give the name of a species that became extinct or is at risk of becoming extinct.			
What may have influenced (or is influencing) the extinction of this species?			
What changes that happened to other species may have influenced (or are influencing) this extinction?			

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Instructions: Think about the five categories of human activities that can increase rates of extinction. List them in the column on the left. In the right-hand column, give an example of how that category has increased rates of extinction. (1 point per box)

Categories of Human Activities	Example of How These Increase Rates of Extinction

Instructions: Answer the following questions in the spaces provided. (2 points each)

1. How does extinction naturally occur?

2. Can humans affect rates of extinction? If yes, identify examples of how humans can cause such changes.
