Three Threats to Biodiversity

Video Transcript

Biodiversity, the variety in plants, animals, and other living organisms on our planet, is an important part of the life cycle and balance of our planet. Creatures interact in a way that is mutually beneficial, such as planets filtering toxins from our air.

When biodiversity declines, ecosystems struggle to survive. Biodiversity declines when certain species in an ecosystem have a low population or are completely gone. Local threats to biodiversity include habitat loss, overharvesting, and the introduction of exotic species in the ecosystem. Humans are unique in this as they can more easily move or adapt to changes in the environment than other species.

Habitat loss is when an entire habitat has been removed from an ecosystem and a species struggles to survive. One example of habitat loss is when a body of water is dredged, which basically means it’s drained of all water. Obviously, this means that the fish in that habitat can no longer survive due to lack of water.

Overharvesting is a very similar threat to habitat loss, where humans overharvest the resources in an area. One example of overharvesting is overfishing of certain specific marine life, such as whales, which are nearly extinct.

The introduction of exotic, completely foreign species can greatly influence biodiversity. These species usually come into the ecosystem through humans who intentionally or accidentally bring the new species into the area. The is the second greatest threat to biodiversity with habit loss being number one. An example of introduced species is an algae in the Mediterranean Sea. It is thought that the algae, known as the Australian caulerpa, was
introduced to the Mediterranean Sea through wastewater from a museum. The algae is aggressive and smothers other species of algae and other marine fauna.

Let's discuss in more detail the significant threats to biodiversity.

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- Corresponding Lesson: Threats to Biodiversity
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