



EXTINCTION IS FOREVER

Review quotes about extinction to hold a discussion on the topic



GRADES 5 - 8

KEY WORD

- extinct

STANDARD

- SS.WG.5.1

OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn to think critically by discussing historical quotes and applying them to the topic of extinction.
- Students will learn that extinction may occur as a result of natural conditions (for example, the dinosaurs) or as a result of human intervention.

PROCEDURE

- Pick one of the included quotes and write it on the board.
- Discuss with students what the quote means, and how it relates to currently extinct or endangered animals.

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Watch for student participation during the discussion.
- Have students write a short paragraph discussing how they feel about the quote and the process of extinction.

EXTENSIONS

- Have students research information on the speakers of the quotes and determine what environmental attitudes were present during that time.
- Pick an extinct animal and have the class explore:
 - why it became extinct
 - when it became extinct
 - what was its habitat
 - how its extinction might have been prevented
 - how the quote you chose relates to the animal and its extinction





EXTINCTION IS FOREVER



Name _____

When the sky has been swept clean of eagles
And the winds carry echoes of the past,
What will you answer when the children ask,
“Where are the animals? Did you see them go?”

-*Tom Knothe*

The beauty and genius of a work of art may be reconceived, though its first material expression be destroyed; a vanished harmony may yet again inspire the composer; but when the last individual of a race of living things breathes no more, another heaven and another earth must pass before such a one can be again.

-*William Beebe*

My chief motive, my most earnest underlying wish, has been to stop the extermination of harmless wild animals; not for their sakes, but for ours, firmly believing that each of our native wild creatures is in itself a precious heritage that we have no right to destroy or put beyond the reach of our children.

-*Ernest Thompson Seton*

What is a man without beasts? If all the beasts were gone, man would die from great loneliness of spirit, for whatever happens to the beasts also happens to man. All things are connected.

-*Chief Seattle, 1855*

Destroyed buildings can be rebuilt; destroyed works of art may possibly be replaced by new creations; but every animal and every flower which becomes extinct is lost forever in the most absolute of all deaths.

-*Joseph Wood Krutch*

In the end, we will conserve only what we love.

We will love only what we understand.

We will understand only what we are taught.

-*Baba Dioum*

The blame will lie with us if the world becomes empty of many of the lovable creatures who not only have the same right to live as ourselves, but who are of vital importance to the balance of nature.

-*Joy Adamson*

