

the sixth extinction pdf

the sixth extinction pdf has become a highly sought-after resource for readers interested in understanding one of the most critical environmental crises of our time. This book, authored by renowned biologist Elizabeth Kolbert, explores the ongoing mass extinction event caused by human activity. The availability of the sixth extinction pdf allows readers to easily access the comprehensive research and compelling narratives that detail the rapid loss of biodiversity across the globe. This article delves into the significance of the sixth extinction, its causes, and the implications for the future of life on Earth. Additionally, it provides guidance on how to responsibly obtain and use the sixth extinction pdf for educational and research purposes. The following sections outline the core themes of the book, the scientific context behind the extinction event, and practical considerations surrounding the digital format of the text.

- Understanding the Sixth Extinction
- Causes and Consequences of the Sixth Extinction
- The Role of Elizabeth Kolbert's Work
- Accessing the Sixth Extinction PDF
- Ethical and Legal Considerations

Understanding the Sixth Extinction

The term "sixth extinction" refers to the ongoing mass extinction event that is distinct from the five previous mass extinctions in Earth's history. Unlike past events caused by natural phenomena such as volcanic eruptions or asteroid impacts, this extinction is primarily driven by human activities. The sixth extinction pdf provides an in-depth analysis of species decline and habitat loss, emphasizing the unprecedented rate at which biodiversity is diminishing. This section explores the definition and historical context of mass extinctions and highlights why the current extinction event warrants urgent attention.

What Defines a Mass Extinction?

A mass extinction is characterized by a sharp decrease in the number and diversity of life forms on Earth over a relatively short geological period. Scientists identify these events by examining fossil records and geological data. The previous five mass extinctions eliminated a significant percentage of species, reshaping ecosystems and evolutionary trajectories. The sixth extinction is unique because it is directly linked to anthropogenic

factors such as habitat destruction, pollution, and climate change.

Evidence of the Current Extinction Event

The sixth extinction pdf compiles extensive evidence including species population data, extinction rates, and ecological disruptions. Current extinction rates are estimated to be 1,000 to 10,000 times higher than background levels. Numerous species have already disappeared, and many more are endangered. The book elaborates on case studies involving amphibians, marine life, and mammals to illustrate the gravity of the situation.

Causes and Consequences of the Sixth Extinction

The drivers behind the sixth extinction are multifaceted and interconnected. Human-induced changes to the environment have created conditions that threaten species survival on a global scale. This section breaks down the primary causes and explores their ecological and socio-economic consequences.

Primary Causes

- **Habitat Destruction:** Urbanization, deforestation, and agriculture have led to significant loss and fragmentation of habitats.
- **Climate Change:** Alterations in temperature and weather patterns disrupt ecosystems and species' life cycles.
- **Pollution:** Contaminants in air, water, and soil poison wildlife and degrade natural environments.
- **Invasive Species:** Introduction of non-native species competes with indigenous organisms, often leading to declines.
- **Overexploitation:** Unsustainable hunting, fishing, and harvesting reduce populations beyond recovery.

Ecological and Economic Impacts

The loss of biodiversity affects ecosystem stability, resilience, and productivity. Vital ecosystem services such as pollination, water purification, and carbon sequestration are compromised. Economically, human societies face increased costs related to food security,

health, and disaster mitigation. The sixth extinction pdf highlights these impacts with detailed examples, underscoring the urgency for global intervention.

The Role of Elizabeth Kolbert's Work

Elizabeth Kolbert's book, which is accessible as the sixth extinction pdf, has played a pivotal role in raising public awareness about the ongoing extinction crisis. Her investigative journalism combines scientific rigor with compelling storytelling, making complex ecological concepts accessible to a broad audience.

Scientific Research and Narrative Style

Kolbert's work synthesizes data from leading scientists and field studies around the world. Through vivid descriptions of species and ecosystems at risk, she connects readers emotionally and intellectually to the subject. The sixth extinction pdf format preserves this engaging narrative, allowing readers to explore the material in detail.

Impact on Environmental Discourse

The publication of the sixth extinction pdf has influenced policy discussions, academic research, and public education. By documenting the human role in this extinction event, Kolbert's book serves as a call to action for conservation and sustainability efforts. It is widely cited in environmental science curricula and advocacy campaigns.

Accessing the Sixth Extinction PDF

Obtaining the sixth extinction pdf can facilitate deeper understanding and research. Various legitimate sources provide this digital format, ensuring quality and legality. This section outlines methods to access the book responsibly.

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Sixth Extinction' PDF about?

'The Sixth Extinction' PDF is a digital version of the book by Elizabeth Kolbert, which explores the ongoing mass extinction caused by human activity and its impact on Earth's biodiversity.

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What are the main themes discussed in 'The Sixth Extinction'?

The book discusses themes such as biodiversity loss, human impact on the environment, climate change, species extinction, and the scientific evidence supporting the concept of a sixth mass extinction.

Who is the author of 'The Sixth Extinction' and what is her background?

Elizabeth Kolbert is the author; she is a science journalist and staff writer for The New Yorker, known for her work on environmental issues and climate change.

Can 'The Sixth Extinction' PDF be used for academic research?

Yes, 'The Sixth Extinction' PDF can be used for academic research, but it's important to cite the book properly and ensure you access it through legitimate channels.

Are there audiobook or other formats available for 'The Sixth Extinction'?

Yes, 'The Sixth Extinction' is available in multiple formats, including hardcover, paperback, ebook (PDF, EPUB), and audiobook, accessible through bookstores and digital platforms.

How does 'The Sixth Extinction' contribute to environmental awareness?

'The Sixth Extinction' raises awareness by presenting compelling scientific evidence and narratives about human-driven extinction events, encouraging readers to understand the urgency of environmental conservation.

Additional Resources

1. *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* by Elizabeth Kolbert

This groundbreaking book explores the ongoing mass extinction caused by human activity. Kolbert combines scientific research with compelling narratives from the field to illustrate how species are vanishing at an unprecedented rate. It offers a sobering look at humanity's impact on the planet's biodiversity.

2. *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson

A classic environmental science book that exposed the dangers of pesticides on wildlife and ecosystems. Carson's work is credited with launching the modern environmental movement, emphasizing the interconnectedness of all living things. It remains a powerful call to action against ecological harm.

3. *Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life* by Edward O. Wilson

Wilson argues for dedicating half the Earth's surface to nature to prevent mass extinction and preserve biodiversity. Combining science with passionate advocacy, he presents a vision for protecting ecosystems and species from collapse. The book is both a warning and a hopeful blueprint for conservation.

4. *Extinction: How Life on Earth Nearly Ended 250 Million Years Ago* by Douglas H. Erwin

This book delves into the Permian-Triassic extinction, the most severe extinction event in Earth's history. Erwin explains the causes, consequences, and lessons learned from this ancient catastrophe. It provides important context for understanding current extinction trends.

5. *Our Final Hour: A Scientist's Warning* by Martin Rees

Astrophysicist Martin Rees discusses potential global risks, including environmental destruction and species extinction. The book warns about humanity's capacity to cause irreversible damage within this century. It blends scientific insight with urgent calls for precautionary measures.

6. *Life on a Young Planet: The First Three Billion Years of Evolution on Earth* by Andrew H. Knoll

Knoll offers an in-depth look at early life on Earth and the evolutionary processes that shaped biodiversity. Understanding this history helps frame the significance of current extinction events. The book is rich in scientific detail and evolutionary perspective.

7. *The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming* by David Wallace-Wells

This stark narrative explores the consequences of climate change, including mass extinctions and ecosystem collapse. Wallace-Wells presents a compelling argument for urgent climate action to mitigate catastrophic outcomes. It is both a warning and a call to action.

8. *Conservation Biology: Foundations, Concepts, Applications* by Fred Van Dyke

A comprehensive textbook covering the principles and practices of conserving biodiversity. It addresses threats like extinction and habitat loss, offering strategies for preservation. This book is an essential resource for students and practitioners in conservation.

9. *Inheritors of the Earth: How Nature Is Thriving in an Age of Extinction* by Chris D.

Thomas

Thomas provides a contrarian view suggesting that while extinctions are occurring, nature is also adapting and evolving in unexpected ways. He explores the resilience and future potential of life on Earth despite human impacts. The book offers a nuanced perspective on the sixth extinction debate.

The Sixth Extinction Pdf

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The Sixth Extinction: A Deep Dive into the Ongoing Biodiversity Crisis

Are we witnessing the end of life as we know it? The alarming rate of species extinction is no longer a distant threat; it's a present reality impacting our planet's ecosystems and our own future. Feeling overwhelmed by the constant barrage of environmental news? Unsure how to understand the complexities of the biodiversity crisis and what you can do about it? You're not alone. Many struggle to grasp the scope of this issue and find effective ways to contribute to solutions. This ebook cuts through the noise, providing a clear, concise, and actionable understanding of the sixth mass extinction.

By Dr. Evelyn Reed, Conservation Biologist

This ebook provides a comprehensive yet accessible exploration of the sixth mass extinction, empowering you to understand the crisis and take informed action.

Contents:

Introduction: Setting the Stage – Understanding the concept of mass extinction and its historical context.

Chapter 1: The Unfolding Crisis: Examining the current extinction rates and the primary drivers, including habitat loss, climate change, pollution, and overexploitation.

Chapter 2: Case Studies of Extinction: In-depth looks at specific endangered species and ecosystems, illustrating the diverse impacts of the crisis.

Chapter 3: The Ripple Effect: Exploring the cascading consequences of biodiversity loss on ecosystem services and human well-being.

Chapter 4: Conservation Strategies: A detailed analysis of effective conservation approaches, including habitat restoration, protected areas, and sustainable practices.

Chapter 5: The Role of Technology: Exploring the potential of technology in conservation efforts, such as monitoring, data analysis, and genetic engineering.

Chapter 6: Individual Action & Collective Responsibility: Practical steps individuals can take to

reduce their environmental impact and advocate for change.

Conclusion: A Call to Action – Emphasizing the urgency of addressing the sixth mass extinction and the importance of collective effort.

The Sixth Extinction: A Comprehensive Guide (Article)

Introduction: Setting the Stage - Understanding Mass Extinctions

The Earth has experienced five mass extinction events in its history, each marked by a dramatic loss of biodiversity in a geologically short period. These events reshaped the planet's ecosystems and paved the way for new evolutionary trajectories. The sixth mass extinction, however, is unique. Unlike previous events caused by asteroid impacts or massive volcanic eruptions, the current crisis is primarily driven by human activities. Understanding this anthropogenic (human-caused) aspect is crucial to comprehending its scale and potential consequences. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, a comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of species, provides stark evidence of the accelerating extinction rate. While natural extinction rates occur, the current rate far surpasses the background rate, signifying a profound ecological imbalance.

Chapter 1: The Unfolding Crisis: Drivers of Extinction

The sixth extinction is not a single event but a complex interplay of factors that synergistically accelerate species decline.

1.1 Habitat Loss and Fragmentation: Deforestation, urbanization, and agricultural expansion are the most significant drivers of habitat loss. As natural habitats shrink and become fragmented, populations become isolated, reducing genetic diversity and making them more vulnerable to disease and environmental changes. This fragmentation also disrupts ecological processes, impacting entire ecosystems.

1.2 Climate Change: Rising global temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, and increased frequency of extreme weather events are disrupting ecosystems globally. Many species cannot adapt quickly enough to these rapid changes, leading to population declines and range shifts. Ocean acidification, a consequence of increased atmospheric CO₂, is particularly devastating for marine organisms with calcium carbonate shells or skeletons, such as corals and shellfish.

1.3 Pollution: Pollution from various sources, including industrial waste, agricultural runoff, and plastic pollution, contaminates air, water, and soil, harming countless species. Pesticides and herbicides have devastating effects on non-target species, disrupting food webs and impacting entire ecosystems. Plastic pollution, a ubiquitous problem, entangles and suffocates marine animals, enters the food chain, and contributes to habitat degradation.

1.4 Overexploitation: Overfishing, hunting, and illegal wildlife trade are driving many species to extinction. Unsustainable harvesting practices deplete populations faster than they can recover, leading to population collapses and potential extinction. The demand for exotic pets and traditional medicines fuels illegal wildlife trade, further exacerbating the crisis.

1.5 Invasive Species: The introduction of non-native species can disrupt ecosystems, outcompeting native species for resources and spreading diseases. Invasive species can alter habitat structures, leading to the decline and extinction of native flora and fauna.

Chapter 2: Case Studies of Extinction

This chapter would delve into specific examples. For instance, the plight of the Amur leopard, facing habitat loss and poaching; the decline of amphibian populations due to chytrid fungus; the impact of coral bleaching on reef ecosystems. Each case study would highlight the specific threats and the efforts underway to conserve the species or ecosystem. These examples serve to illustrate the diverse manifestations of the extinction crisis and its far-reaching consequences.

Chapter 3: The Ripple Effect: Consequences of Biodiversity Loss

The loss of biodiversity is not simply the disappearance of individual species; it has cascading effects throughout ecosystems and impacts human well-being.

3.1 Ecosystem Services: Biodiversity underpins essential ecosystem services, including pollination, water purification, climate regulation, and nutrient cycling. The loss of biodiversity diminishes these services, threatening food security, water availability, and human health.

3.2 Economic Impacts: Biodiversity loss has significant economic consequences, impacting agriculture, fisheries, tourism, and medicine. The loss of potential sources of new medicines and other valuable resources is a major concern.

3.3 Social and Cultural Impacts: Many cultures have deep connections to the natural world, and biodiversity loss can have profound social and cultural impacts. The loss of species can diminish cultural heritage and spiritual values.

Chapter 4: Conservation Strategies

Effective conservation strategies require a multi-faceted approach involving various stakeholders and leveraging scientific knowledge and technological advancements.

4.1 Habitat Restoration: Restoring degraded habitats is crucial for providing suitable environments for species recovery. This involves reforestation, wetland restoration, and the removal of invasive species.

4.2 Protected Areas: Establishing protected areas, such as national parks and wildlife reserves, provides safe havens for threatened species and helps maintain ecosystem integrity. Effective management and enforcement are critical to the success of protected areas.

4.3 Sustainable Practices: Adopting sustainable practices in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries is essential to reduce the impact of human activities on biodiversity. This involves reducing pesticide use, promoting sustainable agriculture, and managing fisheries sustainably.

Chapter 5: The Role of Technology

Technology plays an increasingly important role in conservation efforts, providing tools for monitoring biodiversity, analyzing data, and developing innovative solutions.

5.1 Monitoring and Data Analysis: Remote sensing, GPS tracking, and DNA barcoding provide valuable tools for monitoring species populations and tracking their movements. Data analysis helps identify trends and inform conservation strategies.

5.2 Genetic Engineering: Genetic engineering holds promise for assisting in conservation efforts. Techniques like gene editing can be used to improve species resilience to environmental challenges or to control invasive species.

Chapter 6: Individual Action & Collective Responsibility

Addressing the sixth mass extinction requires collective action at all levels, from individuals to governments and international organizations. Individual actions, while seemingly small, collectively have a significant impact.

Conclusion: A Call to Action

The sixth mass extinction is a profound crisis requiring urgent and concerted action. Understanding the drivers of extinction, the consequences of biodiversity loss, and the available conservation strategies is crucial for effective action. By embracing sustainable practices, supporting conservation efforts, and advocating for policies that protect biodiversity, we can collectively contribute to a future where biodiversity thrives.

FAQs:

1. What is the sixth mass extinction? It's the current, human-caused, period of accelerated species extinction.
2. What are the main causes of the sixth extinction? Habitat loss, climate change, pollution, overexploitation, and invasive species.
3. How does climate change contribute to extinction? Changes in temperature, precipitation, and extreme weather events make habitats unsuitable for many species.
4. What are ecosystem services and why are they important? These are benefits humans derive from ecosystems (e.g., clean water, pollination). Their loss threatens human well-being.
5. What can individuals do to help? Reduce consumption, support sustainable businesses, advocate for conservation policies.
6. What is the role of technology in conservation? Monitoring, data analysis, and potentially gene editing.
7. What are protected areas and why are they important? Safe havens for species; crucial for maintaining biodiversity.
8. What is the IUCN Red List? A global inventory of the conservation status of species.
9. Is it too late to prevent further extinctions? No, but urgent and concerted action is crucial.

Related Articles:

1. The IUCN Red List and its Significance in Conservation: Details the importance of the IUCN Red List in assessing extinction risk.
2. Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss: A Synergistic Threat: Explores the intertwined impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss.
3. Habitat Fragmentation and its Ecological Consequences: Focuses on the effects of habitat fragmentation on species and ecosystems.
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7. Technological Advancements in Biodiversity Monitoring: Discusses the use of technology in biodiversity monitoring and conservation.
8. Community-Based Conservation: Empowering Local Communities for Biodiversity Protection: Explores the role of local communities in conservation.
9. The Ethical Dimensions of Biodiversity Conservation: Examines the ethical considerations surrounding biodiversity loss and conservation efforts.

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the sixth extinction pdf: *Fiction and the Sixth Mass Extinction* Jonathan Elmore, 2020-04-01 *Fiction and the Sixth Mass Extinction* is one of the first works to focus specifically on fiction's engagements with human driven extinction. Drawing together a diverse group of scholars and approaches, this volume pairs established voices in the field with emerging scholars and traditionally recognized climate fiction ('cli-fi') with texts and media typically not associated with Anthropocene fictions. The result is a volume that both engages with and furthers existing work on Anthropocene fiction as well as laying groundwork for the budding subfield of extinction fiction. This volume takes up the collective insistence on the centrality of story to extinction studies. In various and disparate ways, each chapter engages with the stories we tell about extinction, about the extinction of animal and plant life, and about the extinction of human life itself. Answering the call to action of extinction studies, these chapters explore what kinds of humanity caused this event and what kinds may live through it; what cultural assumptions and values led to this event and which ones could lead out of it; what relationships between human life and this planet allowed the sixth mass extinction and what alternative relationships could be possible.

the sixth extinction pdf: Extinction Ashley Dawson, 2016-08-01 Some thousands of years ago, the world was home to an immense variety of large mammals. From woolly mammoths and saber-toothed tigers to giant ground sloths and armadillos the size of automobiles, these spectacular creatures roamed freely. Then human beings arrived. Devouring their way down the food chain as they spread across the planet, they began a process of voracious extinction that has continued to the present. Headlines today are made by the existential threat confronting remaining large animals such as rhinos and pandas. But the devastation summoned by humans extends to humbler realms of creatures including beetles, bats and butterflies. Researchers generally agree that the current extinction rate is nothing short of catastrophic. Currently the earth is losing about a hundred species every day. This relentless extinction, Ashley Dawson contends in a primer that combines vast scope with elegant precision, is the product of a global attack on the commons, the great trove of air, water, plants and creatures, as well as collectively created cultural forms such as language, that have been regarded traditionally as the inheritance of humanity as a whole. This attack has its genesis in the need for capital to expand relentlessly into all spheres of life. Extinction, Dawson argues, cannot be understood in isolation from a critique of our economic system. To achieve this we need to transgress the boundaries between science, environmentalism and radical politics. *Extinction: A Radical History* performs this task with both brio and brilliance.

the sixth extinction pdf: Biological Extinction Partha Dasgupta, Peter Raven, Anna McIvor, 2019-09-05 Questions why species are becoming extinct, and how we can protect the natural world

on which we all depend.

the sixth extinction pdf: Catastrophic Thinking David Sepkoski, 2023-12-06 A history of scientific ideas about extinction that explains why we learned to value diversity as a precious resource at the same time as we learned to “think catastrophically” about extinction. We live in an age in which we are repeatedly reminded—by scientists, by the media, by popular culture—of the looming threat of mass extinction. We’re told that human activity is currently producing a sixth mass extinction, perhaps of even greater magnitude than the five previous geological catastrophes that drastically altered life on Earth. Indeed, there is a very real concern that the human species may itself be poised to go the way of the dinosaurs, victims of the most recent mass extinction some 65 million years ago. How we interpret the causes and consequences of extinction and their ensuing moral imperatives is deeply embedded in the cultural values of any given historical moment. And, as David Sepkoski reveals, the history of scientific ideas about extinction over the past two hundred years—as both a past and a current process—is implicated in major changes in the way Western society has approached biological and cultural diversity. It seems self-evident to most of us that diverse ecosystems and societies are intrinsically valuable, but the current fascination with diversity is a relatively recent phenomenon. In fact, the way we value diversity depends crucially on our sense that it is precarious—that it is something actively threatened, and that its loss could have profound consequences. In *Catastrophic Thinking*, Sepkoski uncovers how and why we learned to value diversity as a precious resource at the same time as we learned to think catastrophically about extinction.

the sixth extinction pdf: Field Notes from a Catastrophe Elizabeth Kolbert, 2015-02-03 A new edition of the book that launched Elizabeth Kolbert's career as an environmental writer--updated with three new chapters, making it, yet again, irreplaceable (Boston Globe). Elizabeth Kolbert's environmental classic *Field Notes from a Catastrophe* first developed out of a groundbreaking, National Magazine Award-winning three-part series in *The New Yorker*. She expanded it into a still-concise yet richly researched and damning book about climate change: a primer on the greatest challenge facing the world today. But in the years since, the story has continued to develop; the situation has become more dire, even as our understanding grows. Now, Kolbert returns to the defining book of her career. She has added a chapter bringing things up-to-date on the existing text, plus three new chapters--on ocean acidification, the tar sands, and a Danish town that's gone carbon neutral--making it, again, a must-read for our moment.

the sixth extinction pdf: After Extinction Richard Grusin, 2018-03-20 A multidisciplinary exploration of extinction and what comes next What comes after extinction? Including both prominent and unusual voices in current debates around the Anthropocene, this collection asks authors from diverse backgrounds to address this question. *After Extinction* looks at the future of humans and nonhumans, exploring how the scale of risk posed by extinction has changed in light of the accelerated networks of the twenty-first century. The collection considers extinction as a cultural, artistic, and media event as well as a biological one. The authors treat extinction in relation to a variety of topics, including disability, human exceptionalism, science-fiction understandings of time and posthistory, photography, the contemporary ecological crisis, the California Condor, systemic racism, Native American traditions, and capitalism. From discussions of the anticipated sixth extinction to the status of writing, theory, and philosophy after extinction, the contributions of this volume are insightful and innovative, timely and thought provoking. Contributors: Daryl Baldwin, Miami U; Claire Colebrook, Pennsylvania State U; William E. Connolly, Johns Hopkins U; Ashley Dawson, CUNY Graduate Center; Joseph Masco, U of Chicago; Nicholas Mirzoeff, New York U; Margaret Noodin, U of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Jussi Parikka, U of Southampton; Bernard C. Perley, U of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Cary Wolfe, Rice U; Joanna Zylińska, Goldsmiths, U of London.

the sixth extinction pdf: Under a White Sky Elizabeth Kolbert, 2021-02-09 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Sixth Extinction* returns to humanity's transformative impact on the environment, now asking: After doing so much damage, can we change nature, this time to save it? RECOMMENDED BY PRESIDENT OBAMA AND BILL GATES •

SHORTLISTED FOR THE WAINWRIGHT PRIZE FOR WRITING • ONE OF THE TEN BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: The Washington Post • ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: Time, Esquire, Smithsonian Magazine, Vulture, Publishers Weekly, Kirkus Reviews, Library Journal • “Beautifully and insistently, Kolbert shows us that it is time to think radically about the ways we manage the environment.”—Helen Macdonald, The New York Times That man should have dominion “over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth” is a prophecy that has hardened into fact. So pervasive are human impacts on the planet that it’s said we live in a new geological epoch: the Anthropocene. In *Under a White Sky*, Elizabeth Kolbert takes a hard look at the new world we are creating. Along the way, she meets biologists who are trying to preserve the world’s rarest fish, which lives in a single tiny pool in the middle of the Mojave; engineers who are turning carbon emissions to stone in Iceland; Australian researchers who are trying to develop a “super coral” that can survive on a hotter globe; and physicists who are contemplating shooting tiny diamonds into the stratosphere to cool the earth. One way to look at human civilization, says Kolbert, is as a ten-thousand-year exercise in defying nature. In *The Sixth Extinction*, she explored the ways in which our capacity for destruction has reshaped the natural world. Now she examines how the very sorts of interventions that have imperiled our planet are increasingly seen as the only hope for its salvation. By turns inspiring, terrifying, and darkly comic, *Under a White Sky* is an utterly original examination of the challenges we face.

the sixth extinction pdf: *The Sixth Extinction* Richard E. Leakey, 1996-10-01 Richard Leakey, One Of The World's Foremost Experts On Man's Evolutionary Past, Now Turns His Eye To The Future And Doesn't Like What He Sees. To the philosophical the earth is eternal, while the human race -- presumptive keeper of the world's history -- is a mere speck in the rich stream of life. It is known that nothing upon Earth is forever; geography, climate, and plant and animal life are all subject to radical change. On five occasions in the past, catastrophic natural events have caused mass extinctions on Earth. But today humans stand alone, in dubious distinction, among Earth's species: Homo Sapiens possesses the ability to destroy entire species at will, to trigger the sixth extinction in the history of life. In *The Sixth Extinction*, Richard Leakey and Roger Lewin consider how the grand sprawl of human life is inexorably wreaking havoc around the world. The authors of *Origins* and *Origins Reconsidered*, unimpeachable authorities on the human fossil record, turn their attention to the most uncharted anthropological territory of all: the future, and man's role in defining it. According to Leakey and Lewin, man and his surrounding species are end products of history and chance. Now, however, humans have the unique opportunity to recognize their influence on the global ecosystem, and consciously steer the outcome in order to avoid triggering an unimaginable upheaval.

the sixth extinction pdf: *The Sixth Extinction (young readers adaptation)* Elizabeth Kolbert, 2024-02-06 In this young readers adaptation of the New York Times-bestselling, Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Sixth Extinction*, Elizabeth Kolbert tells us why and how human beings have altered life on the planet in a way no species has before. Over the last half-billion years, there have been five mass extinctions, when the diversity of life on earth suddenly and dramatically contracted. Scientists around the world are monitoring the sixth extinction, predicted to be the most devastating extinction event since the asteroid impact that wiped out the dinosaurs. Adapting from her New York Times-bestselling, Pulitzer Prize-winning adult nonfiction, Elizabeth Kolbert explores how humans are altering life on Earth.

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essays explore how representations of recent and ancient extinctions help advance scientific understanding and speak to contemporary ecological and environmental concerns.

the sixth extinction pdf: *Imagining Extinction* Ursula K. Heise, 2016-08-10 We are currently facing the sixth mass extinction of species in the history of life on Earth, biologists claim—the first one caused by humans. Heise argues that understanding these stories and symbols is indispensable for any effective advocacy on behalf of endangered species. More than that, she shows how biodiversity conservation, even and especially in its scientific and legal dimensions, is shaped by cultural assumptions about what is valuable in nature and what is not.

the sixth extinction pdf: *Terra* Michael J. Novacek, 2007-11-13 In this brilliant synthesis of evolutionary biology, paleontology, and modern environmental science, Novacek shows how all three can help readers understand and prevent what he and others call today's mass extinction event.

the sixth extinction pdf: *We're Doomed. Now What?* Roy Scranton, 2018-07-17 An American Orwell for the age of Trump, Roy Scranton faces the unpleasant facts of our day with fierce insight and honesty. *We're Doomed. Now What?* penetrates to the very heart of our time. Our moment is one of alarming and bewildering change—the breakup of the post-1945 global order, a multispecies mass extinction, and the beginning of the end of civilization as we know it. Not one of us is innocent, not one of us is safe. Now what? *We're Doomed. Now What?* addresses the crisis that is our time through a series of brilliant, moving, and original essays on climate change, war, literature, and loss, from one of the most provocative and iconoclastic minds of his generation. Whether writing about sailing through the melting Arctic, preparing for Houston's next big storm, watching *Star Wars*, or going back to the streets of Baghdad he once patrolled as a soldier, Roy Scranton handles his subjects with the same electric, philosophical, demotic touch that he brought to his groundbreaking New York Times essay, "Learning How to Die in the Anthropocene."

the sixth extinction pdf: *Resurrection Science* M. R. O'Connor, 2015-09-15 **A Library Journal Best Book of 2015 ** **A Christian Science Monitor Top Ten Book of September** In a world dominated by people and rapid climate change, species large and small are increasingly vulnerable to extinction. In *Resurrection Science*, journalist M. R. O'Connor explores the extreme measures scientists are taking to try and save them, from captive breeding and genetic management to de-extinction. Paradoxically, the more we intervene to save species, the less wild they often become. In stories of sixteenth-century galleon excavations, panther-tracking in Florida swamps, ancient African rainforests, Neanderthal tool-making, and cryogenic DNA banks, O'Connor investigates the philosophical questions of an age in which we play god with earth's biodiversity. Each chapter in this beautifully written book focuses on a unique species—from the charismatic northern white rhinoceros to the infamous passenger pigeon—and the people entwined in the animals' fates. Incorporating natural history and evolutionary biology with conversations with eminent ethicists, O'Connor's narrative goes to the heart of the human enterprise: What should we preserve of wilderness as we hurtle toward a future in which technology is present in nearly every aspect of our lives? How can we co-exist with species when our existence and their survival appear to be pitted against one another?

the sixth extinction pdf: *Extinctions in Near Time* Ross D.E. MacPhee, Hans-Dieter Sues, 2013-11-09 Near time—an interval that spans the last 100,000 years or so of earth history—qualifies as a remarkable period for many reasons. From an anthropocentric point of view, the outstanding feature of near time is the fact that the evolution, cultural diversification, and global spread of *Homo sapiens* have all occurred within it. From a wider biological perspective, however, the hallmark of near time is better conceived of as being one of enduring, repeated loss. The point is important. Despite the sense of uniqueness implicit in phrases like the biodiversity crisis, meant to convey the notion that the present bout of extinctions is by far the worst endured in recent times, substantial losses have occurred throughout near time. In the majority of cases, these losses occurred when, and only when, people began to expand across areas that had never before experienced their presence. Although the explanation for these correlations in time and space may seem obvious, it is one thing to rhetorically observe that there is a connection between humans and

recent extinctions, and quite another to demonstrate it scientifically. How should this be done? Traditionally, the study of past extinctions has fallen largely to researchers steeped in such disciplines as paleontology, systematics, and paleoecology. The evaluation of future losses, by contrast, has lain almost exclusively within the domain of conservation biologists. Now, more than ever, there is opportunity for overlap and sharing of information.

the sixth extinction pdf: *Beloved Beasts: Fighting for Life in an Age of Extinction* Michelle Nijhuis, 2021-03-09 Winner of the Sierra Club's 2021 Rachel Carson Award One of Chicago Tribune's Ten Best Books of 2021 Named a Top Ten Best Science Book of 2021 by Booklist and Smithsonian Magazine At once thoughtful and thought-provoking, "Beloved Beasts" tells the story of the modern conservation movement through the lives and ideas of the people who built it, making "a crucial addition to the literature of our troubled time (Elizabeth Kolbert, author of *The Sixth Extinction*). In the late nineteenth century, humans came at long last to a devastating realization: their rapidly industrializing and globalizing societies were driving scores of animal species to extinction. In *Beloved Beasts*, acclaimed science journalist Michelle Nijhuis traces the history of the movement to protect and conserve other forms of life. From early battles to save charismatic species such as the American bison and bald eagle to today's global effort to defend life on a larger scale, Nijhuis's "spirited and engaging" account documents "the changes of heart that changed history" (Dan Cryer, *Boston Globe*). With "urgency, passion, and wit" (Michael Berry, *Christian Science Monitor*), she describes the vital role of scientists and activists such as Aldo Leopold and Rachel Carson, reveals the origins of vital organizations like the Audubon Society and the World Wildlife Fund, explores current efforts to protect species such as the whooping crane and the black rhinoceros, and confronts the darker side of modern conservation, long shadowed by racism and colonialism. As the destruction of other species continues and the effects of climate change wreak havoc on our world, *Beloved Beasts* charts the ways conservation is becoming a movement for the protection of all species including our own.

the sixth extinction pdf: *How to Clone a Mammoth* Beth Shapiro, 2020-09-08 An insider's view on bringing extinct species back to life Could extinct species, like mammoths and passenger pigeons, be brought back to life? In *How to Clone a Mammoth*, Beth Shapiro, an evolutionary biologist and pioneer in ancient DNA research, addresses this intriguing question by walking readers through the astonishing and controversial process of de-extinction. From deciding which species should be restored to anticipating how revived populations might be overseen in the wild, Shapiro vividly explores the extraordinary cutting-edge science that is being used to resurrect the past. Considering de-extinction's practical benefits and ethical challenges, Shapiro argues that the overarching goal should be the revitalization and stabilization of contemporary ecosystems. Looking at the very real and compelling science behind an idea once seen as science fiction, *How to Clone a Mammoth* demonstrates how de-extinction will redefine conservation's future.

the sixth extinction pdf: *Your Inner Fish* Neil Shubin, 2008-01-15 The paleontologist and professor of anatomy who co-discovered Tiktaalik, the "fish with hands," tells a "compelling scientific adventure story that will change forever how you understand what it means to be human" (Oliver Sacks). By examining fossils and DNA, he shows us that our hands actually resemble fish fins, our heads are organized like long-extinct jawless fish, and major parts of our genomes look and function like those of worms and bacteria. *Your Inner Fish* makes us look at ourselves and our world in an illuminating new light. This is science writing at its finest—enlightening, accessible and told with irresistible enthusiasm.

the sixth extinction pdf: *Volcanism, Impacts, and Mass Extinctions: Causes and Effects* Gerta Keller, Andrew C. Kerr, 2014-09-16 Comprises articles stemming from the March 2013 international conference at London's Natural History Museum. Researchers across geological, geophysical, and biological disciplines present key results from research concerning the causes of mass extinction events--

the sixth extinction pdf: *Flight Ways* Thom van Dooren, 2014-06-03 A leading figure in the emerging field of extinction studies, Thom van Dooren puts philosophy into conversation with the

natural sciences and his ethnographic encounters to vivify the cultural and ethical significance of modern-day extinctions. Unlike other meditations on the subject, *Flight Ways* incorporates the particularities of real animals and their worlds, drawing philosophers, natural scientists, and general readers into the experience of living among and losing biodiversity. Each chapter of *Flight Ways* focuses on a different species or group of birds: North Pacific albatrosses, Indian vultures, an endangered colony of penguins in Australia, Hawaiian crows, and the iconic whooping cranes of North America. Written in eloquent and moving prose, the book takes stock of what is lost when a life form disappears from the world—the wide-ranging ramifications that ripple out to implicate a number of human and more-than-human others. Van Dooren intimately explores what life is like for those who must live on the edge of extinction, balanced between life and oblivion, taking care of their young and grieving their dead. He bolsters his studies with real-life accounts from scientists and local communities at the forefront of these developments. No longer abstract entities with Latin names, these species become fully realized characters enmeshed in complex and precarious ways of life, sparking our sense of curiosity, concern, and accountability toward others in a rapidly changing world.

the sixth extinction pdf: Learning to Die in the Anthropocene Roy Scranton, 2015-09-07 In *Learning to Die in the Anthropocene*, Roy Scranton draws on his experiences in Iraq to confront the grim realities of climate change. The result is a fierce and provocative book.--Elizabeth Kolbert, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* Roy Scranton's *Learning to Die in the Anthropocene* presents, without extraneous bullshit, what we must do to survive on Earth. It's a powerful, useful, and ultimately hopeful book that more than any other I've read has the ability to change people's minds and create change. For me, it crystallizes and expresses what I've been thinking about and trying to get a grasp on. The economical way it does so, with such clarity, sets the book apart from most others on the subject.--Jeff VanderMeer, author of the *Southern Reach* trilogy Roy Scranton lucidly articulates the depth of the climate crisis with an honesty that is all too rare, then calls for a reimagined humanism that will help us meet our stormy future with as much decency as we can muster. While I don't share his conclusions about the potential for social movements to drive ambitious mitigation, this is a wise and important challenge from an elegant writer and original thinker. A critical intervention.--Naomi Klein, author of *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate* Concise, elegant, erudite, heartfelt & wise.--Amitav Ghosh, author of *Flood of Fire* War veteran and journalist Roy Scranton combines memoir, philosophy, and science writing to craft one of the definitive documents of the modern era.--The Believer Best Books of 2015 Coming home from the war in Iraq, US Army private Roy Scranton thought he'd left the world of strife behind. Then he watched as new calamities struck America, heralding a threat far more dangerous than ISIS or Al Qaeda: Hurricane Katrina, Superstorm Sandy, megadrought--the shock and awe of global warming. Our world is changing. Rising seas, spiking temperatures, and extreme weather imperil global infrastructure, crops, and water supplies. Conflict, famine, plagues, and riots menace from every quarter. From war-stricken Baghdad to the melting Arctic, human-caused climate change poses a danger not only to political and economic stability, but to civilization itself . . . and to what it means to be human. Our greatest enemy, it turns out, is ourselves. The warmer, wetter, more chaotic world we now live in--the Anthropocene--demands a radical new vision of human life. In this bracing response to climate change, Roy Scranton combines memoir, reportage, philosophy, and Zen wisdom to explore what it means to be human in a rapidly evolving world, taking readers on a journey through street protests, the latest findings of earth scientists, a historic UN summit, millennia of geological history, and the persistent vitality of ancient literature. Expanding on his influential New York Times essay (the #1 most-emailed article the day it appeared, and selected for Best American Science and Nature Writing 2014), Scranton responds to the existential problem of global warming by arguing that in order to survive, we must come to terms with our mortality. Plato argued that to philosophize is to learn to die. If that's true, says Scranton, then we have entered humanity's most philosophical age--for this is precisely the problem of the Anthropocene. The trouble now is that we must learn to die not as individuals, but as a civilization.

Roy Scranton has published in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Rolling Stone, Boston Review, and Theory and Event, and has been interviewed on NPR's Fresh Air, among other media.

the sixth extinction pdf: The 6th Extinction Elizabeth Kolbert, 2015-01-06 WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE ONE OF THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW'S 10 BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER A NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD FINALIST A major book about the future of the world, blending intellectual and natural history and field reporting into a powerful account of the mass extinction unfolding before our eyes Over the last half-billion years, there have been Five mass extinctions, when the diversity of life on earth suddenly and dramatically contracted. Scientists around the world are currently monitoring the sixth extinction, predicted to be the most devastating extinction event since the asteroid impact that wiped out the dinosaurs. This time around, the cataclysm is us. In prose that is at once frank, entertaining, and deeply informed, New Yorker writer Elizabeth Kolbert tells us why and how human beings have altered life on the planet in a way no species has before. Interweaving research in half a dozen disciplines, descriptions of the fascinating species that have already been lost, and the history of extinction as a concept, Kolbert provides a moving and comprehensive account of the disappearances occurring before our very eyes. She shows that the sixth extinction is likely to be mankind's most lasting legacy, compelling us to rethink the fundamental question of what it means to be human.

the sixth extinction pdf: Dodging Extinction Anthony D. Barnosky, 2014-10-01 Paleobiologist Anthony D. Barnosky weaves together evidence from the deep past and the present to alert us to the looming Sixth Mass Extinction and to offer a practical, hopeful plan for avoiding it. Writing from the front lines of extinction research, Barnosky tells the overarching story of geologic and evolutionary history and how it informs the way humans inhabit, exploit, and impact Earth today. He presents compelling evidence that unless we rethink how we generate the power we use to run our global ecosystem, where we get our food, and how we make our money, we will trigger what would be the sixth great extinction on Earth, with dire consequences. Optimistic that we can change this ominous forecast if we act now, Barnosky provides clear-cut strategies to guide the planet away from global catastrophe. In many instances the necessary technology and know-how already exist and are being applied to crucial issues around human-caused climate change, feeding the world's growing population, and exploiting natural resources. Deeply informed yet accessibly written, *Dodging Extinction* is nothing short of a guidebook for saving the planet.

the sixth extinction pdf: Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life Edward O. Wilson, 2016-03-07 An audacious and concrete proposal...Half-Earth completes the 86-year-old Wilson's valedictory trilogy on the human animal and our place on the planet. —Jedediah Purdy, New Republic In his most urgent book to date, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and world-renowned biologist Edward O. Wilson states that in order to stave off the mass extinction of species, including our own, we must move swiftly to preserve the biodiversity of our planet. In this visionary blueprint for saving the planet (Stephen Greenblatt), Half-Earth argues that the situation facing us is too large to be solved piecemeal and proposes a solution commensurate with the magnitude of the problem: dedicate fully half the surface of the Earth to nature. Identifying actual regions of the planet that can still be reclaimed—such as the California redwood forest, the Amazon River basin, and grasslands of the Serengeti, among others—Wilson puts aside the prevailing pessimism of our times and speaks with a humane eloquence which calls to us all (Oliver Sacks).

the sixth extinction pdf: Extinction Studies Deborah Bird Rose, Thom van Dooren, Matthew Chrulew, 2017-05-02 Extinction Studies focuses on the entangled ecological and social dimensions of extinction, exploring the ways in which extinction catastrophically interrupts life-giving processes of time, death, and generations. The volume opens up important philosophical questions about our place in, and obligations to, a more-than-human world. Drawing on fieldwork, philosophy, literature, history, and a range of other perspectives, each of the chapters in this book tells a unique extinction story that explores what extinction is, what it means, why it matters—and to whom.

the sixth extinction pdf: The Sixth Extinction James Rollins, 2015 A remote military research

station in Utah sends out a frantic distress call, ending with a chilling final command: Kill us all By the time help arrives every living thing for fifty miles has been annihilated. And blight is spreading. To halt the inevitable, Commander Gray Pierce and Sigma must unravel a threat that rises out of the distant past, to a time when Antarctica was green and life on Earth balanced on a knife edge. Following clues from an ancient map rescued from the lost Library of Alexandria, Sigma will discover the truth about an ancient continent, about a new form of death buried under miles of ice, and the coming extinction of mankind.

the sixth extinction pdf: Beyond the Sixth Extinction Shawn Sheehy, 2018-10-09 Elaborate pop-ups feature some wonderfully creepy creatures that just might dominate the ecosystem and be essential to our planet's survival in an eerily realistic future world. Whether or not we know it, the sixth global extinction is already under way, propelled not by a meteor but by human activity on Earth. Take a long step forward into the year 4847 with the help of stunning pop-ups portraying eight fantastical creatures, along with spreads and flaps presenting details about each one. Paper engineer Shawn Sheehy envisions the aftermath of extinction as a flourishing ecosystem centered around fictional creatures that could evolve from existing organisms. Promising high appeal for science-fiction fans of all ages — and plenty of food for discussion — this evolutionary extravaganza offers a time line of the six extinction events in Earth's history, a "field guide" to each creature, a diagram of species relationships, a habitat map of the (imagined) ruins of Chicago, and an illuminating author's note.

the sixth extinction pdf: In the Light of Evolution National Academy of Sciences, 2017-01-01 Biodiversity-the genetic variety of life-is an exuberant product of the evolutionary past, a vast human-supportive resource (aesthetic, intellectual, and material) of the present, and a rich legacy to cherish and preserve for the future. Two urgent challenges, and opportunities, for 21st-century science are to gain deeper insights into the evolutionary processes that foster biotic diversity, and to translate that understanding into workable solutions for the regional and global crises that biodiversity currently faces. A grasp of evolutionary principles and processes is important in other societal arenas as well, such as education, medicine, sociology, and other applied fields including agriculture, pharmacology, and biotechnology. The ramifications of evolutionary thought also extend into learned realms traditionally reserved for philosophy and religion. The central goal of the In the Light of Evolution (ILE) series is to promote the evolutionary sciences through state-of-the-art colloquia-in the series of Arthur M. Sackler colloquia sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences-and their published proceedings. Each installment explores evolutionary perspectives on a particular biological topic that is scientifically intriguing but also has special relevance to contemporary societal issues or challenges. This tenth and final edition of the In the Light of Evolution series focuses on recent developments in phylogeographic research and their relevance to past accomplishments and future research directions.

the sixth extinction pdf: The Anthropology of Extinction Genese Marie Sodikoff, 2012 The Anthropology of Extinction offers compelling explorations of issues of widespread concern.

the sixth extinction pdf: The Fall of the Wild Ben A. Minteer, 2018-12-11 The passenger pigeon, the great auk, the Tasmanian tiger—the memory of these vanished species haunts the fight against extinction. Seeking to save other creatures from their fate in an age of accelerating biodiversity loss, wildlife advocates have become captivated by a narrative of heroic conservation efforts. A range of technological and policy strategies, from the traditional, such as regulations and refuges, to the novel—the scientific wizardry of genetic engineering and synthetic biology—seemingly promise solutions to the extinction crisis. In *The Fall of the Wild*, Ben A. Minteer calls for reflection on the ethical dilemmas of species loss and recovery in an increasingly human-driven world. He asks an unsettling but necessary question: Might our well-meaning efforts to save and restore wildlife pose a threat to the ideal of preserving a world that isn't completely under the human thumb? Minteer probes the tension between our impulse to do whatever it takes and the risk of pursuing strategies that undermine our broader commitment to the preservation of wildness. From collecting wildlife specimens for museums and the wilderness aspirations of zoos to

visions of “assisted colonization” of new habitats and high-tech attempts to revive long-extinct species, he explores the scientific and ethical concerns vexing conservation today. *The Fall of the Wild* is a nuanced treatment of the deeper moral issues underpinning the quest to save species on the brink of extinction and an accessible intervention in debates over the principles and practice of nature conservation.

the sixth extinction pdf: *The Story of More* Hope Jahren, 2020-03-03 The essential pocket primer on climate change that will leave an indelible impact on everyone who reads it. • “Jahren asks the central question of our time: how can we learn to live on a finite planet? —Elizabeth Kolbert, New York Times bestselling author of *The Sixth Extinction* The voice that science has been waiting for.” —Nature Hope Jahren is an award-winning scientist, a brilliant writer, a passionate teacher, and one of the seven billion people with whom we share this earth. In *The Story of More*, she illuminates the link between human habits and our imperiled planet. In concise, highly readable chapters, she takes us through the science behind the key inventions—from electric power to large-scale farming to automobiles—that, even as they help us, release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere like never before. She explains the current and projected consequences of global warming—from superstorms to rising sea levels—and the actions that we all can take to fight back. At once an explainer on the mechanisms of global change and a lively, personal narrative given to us in Jahren’s inimitable voice, *The Story of More* is “a superb account of the deadly struggle between humanity and what may prove the only life-bearing planet within ten light years (E. O. Wilson).

the sixth extinction pdf: *The Ends of the World* Peter Brannen, 2017-06-13 One of Vox’s Most Important Books of the Decade New York Times Editors’ Choice 2017 Forbes Top 10 Best Environment, Climate, and Conservation Book of 2017 As new groundbreaking research suggests that climate change played a major role in the most extreme catastrophes in the planet’s history, award-winning science journalist Peter Brannen takes us on a wild ride through the planet’s five mass extinctions and, in the process, offers us a glimpse of our increasingly dangerous future Our world has ended five times: it has been broiled, frozen, poison-gassed, smothered, and pelted by asteroids. In *The Ends of the World*, Peter Brannen dives into deep time, exploring Earth’s past dead ends, and in the process, offers us a glimpse of our possible future. Many scientists now believe that the climate shifts of the twenty-first century have analogs in these five extinctions. Using the visible clues these devastations have left behind in the fossil record, *The Ends of the World* takes us inside “scenes of the crime,” from South Africa to the New York Palisades, to tell the story of each extinction. Brannen examines the fossil record—which is rife with creatures like dragonflies the size of sea gulls and guillotine-mouthed fish—and introduces us to the researchers on the front lines who, using the forensic tools of modern science, are piecing together what really happened at the crime scenes of the Earth’s biggest whodunits. Part road trip, part history, and part cautionary tale, *The Ends of the World* takes us on a tour of the ways that our planet has clawed itself back from the grave, and casts our future in a completely new light.

the sixth extinction pdf: *Vanished Giants* Anthony J. Stuart, 2021-01-28 Featuring numerous illustrations, this book explores the many lessons to be learned from Pleistocene megafauna, including the role of humans in their extinction, their disappearance at the start of the Sixth Extinction, and what they might teach us about contemporary conservation crises. Long after the extinction of dinosaurs, when humans were still in the Stone Age, woolly rhinos, mammoths, mastodons, sabertooth cats, giant ground sloths, and many other spectacular large animals that are no longer with us roamed the Earth. These animals are regarded as “Pleistocene megafauna,” named for the geological era in which they lived—also known as the Ice Age. In *Vanished Giants: The Lost World of the Ice Age*, paleontologist Anthony J. Stuart explores the lives and environments of these animals, moving between six continents and several key islands. Stuart examines the animals themselves via what we’ve learned from fossil remains, and he describes the landscapes, climates, vegetation, ecological interactions, and other aspects of the animals’ existence. Illustrated throughout, *Vanished Giants* also offers a picture of the world as it was tens of thousands of years ago when these giants still existed. Unlike the case of the dinosaurs, there was no asteroid strike to

blame for the end of their world. Instead, it appears that the giants of the Ice Age were driven to extinction by climate change, human activities—especially hunting—or both. Drawing on the latest evidence provided by radiocarbon dating, Stuart discusses these possibilities. The extinction of Ice Age megafauna can be seen as the beginning of the so-called Sixth Extinction, which is happening right now. This has important implications for understanding the likely fate of present-day animals in the face of contemporary climate change and vastly increasing human populations.

the sixth extinction pdf: *The Sixth Extinction* Elizabeth Kolbert, Save Time Summaries, 2014-03-11 WARNING: This is not the actual book *The Sixth Extinction* by Elizabeth Kolbert. Do not buy this Summary, Review & Analysis if you are looking for a full copy of this great book. This summary of *The Sixth Extinction* drills deep down into the book, which travels to exotic locations around the world to illustrate case studies of an endangered planet (think of it as a 1000 places to see before the world dies). In chapter synopses, speculate on different scenarios that could lead to an earth-altering cataclysm. Visit a frozen zoo, where the cells of a 1,000 species have been served a liquid nitrogen cocktail. Find hope as you learn how the most important ecological experiment ever done is currently underway in the Amazon rainforest. In addition to an author biography, this summary of *The Sixth Extinction* includes a putting it together section: a helping hand for understanding Kolbert's big ideas. It's hard to believe that the sum total of all human civilization will one day be compressed into a rock layer the width of a piece of paper, but in *The Sixth Extinction*, Elizabeth Kolbert gives the reader an expansive overview of how Mother Earth is getting ready to clean house - again. This time, it's not just the mastodon bones being thrown out with the trash. An exploration of how humans are heading for mass extinction largely due to their own follies, *The Sixth Extinction* compresses anecdotes, evidence, and scientific characters into a sometimes-humorous tome of an otherwise serious topic.

the sixth extinction pdf: Conservation Biology in Sub-Saharan Africa Richard Primack, Johnny W. Wilson, 2019-09-10 *Conservation Biology in Sub-Saharan Africa* comprehensively explores the challenges and potential solutions to key conservation issues in Sub-Saharan Africa. Easy to read, this lucid and accessible textbook includes fifteen chapters that cover a full range of conservation topics, including threats to biodiversity, environmental laws, and protected areas management, as well as related topics such as sustainability, poverty, and human-wildlife conflict. This rich resource also includes a background discussion of what conservation biology is, a wide range of theoretical approaches to the subject, and concrete examples of conservation practice in specific African contexts. Strategies are outlined to protect biodiversity whilst promoting economic development in the region. Boxes covering specific themes written by scientists who live and work throughout the region are included in each chapter, together with recommended readings and suggested discussion topics. Each chapter also includes an extensive bibliography. *Conservation Biology in Sub-Saharan Africa* provides the most up-to-date study in the field. It is an essential resource, available on-line without charge, for undergraduate and graduate students, as well as a handy guide for professionals working to stop the rapid loss of biodiversity in Sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere.

the sixth extinction pdf: The Princeton Guide to Ecology Simon A. Levin, Stephen R. Carpenter, H. Charles J. Godfray, Ann P. Kinzig, Michel Loreau, Jonathan B. Losos, Brian Walker, David S. Wilcove, 2012-09-30 *The Princeton Guide to Ecology* is a concise, authoritative one-volume reference to the field's major subjects and key concepts. Edited by eminent ecologist Simon Levin, with contributions from an international team of leading ecologists, the book contains more than ninety clear, accurate, and up-to-date articles on the most important topics within seven major areas: autecology, population ecology, communities and ecosystems, landscapes and the biosphere, conservation biology, ecosystem services, and biosphere management. Complete with more than 200 illustrations (including sixteen pages in color), a glossary of key terms, a chronology of milestones in the field, suggestions for further reading on each topic, and an index, this is an essential volume for undergraduate and graduate students, research ecologists, scientists in related fields, policymakers, and anyone else with a serious interest in ecology. Explains key topics in one concise and

authoritative volume Features more than ninety articles written by an international team of leading ecologists Contains more than 200 illustrations, including sixteen pages in color Includes glossary, chronology, suggestions for further reading, and index Covers autecology, population ecology, communities and ecosystems, landscapes and the biosphere, conservation biology, ecosystem services, and biosphere management

the sixth extinction pdf: The Big Ratchet Ruth DeFries, 2014-09-09 How an ordinary mammal manipulated nature to become technologically sophisticated city-dwellers -- and why our history points to an optimistic future in the face of environmental crisis Our species long lived on the edge of starvation. Now we produce enough food for all 7 billion of us to eat nearly 3,000 calories every day. This is such an astonishing thing in the history of life as to verge on the miraculous. The Big Ratchet is the story of how it happened, of the ratchets -- the technologies and innovations, big and small -- that propelled our species from hunters and gatherers on the savannahs of Africa to shoppers in the aisles of the supermarket. The Big Ratchet itself came in the twentieth century, when a range of technologies -- from fossil fuels to scientific plant breeding to nitrogen fertilizers -- combined to nearly quadruple our population in a century, and to grow our food supply even faster. To some, these technologies are a sign of our greatness; to others, of our hubris. MacArthur fellow and Columbia University professor Ruth DeFries argues that the debate is the wrong one to have. Limits do exist, but every limit that has confronted us, we have surpassed. That cycle of crisis and growth is the story of our history; indeed, it is the essence of The Big Ratchet. Understanding it will reveal not just how we reached this point in our history, but how we might survive it.

the sixth extinction pdf: Editing Humanity Kevin Davies, 2020-10-06 One of the world's leading experts on genetics unravels one of the most important breakthroughs in modern science and medicine. If our genes are, to a great extent, our destiny, then what would happen if mankind could engineer and alter the very essence of our DNA coding? Millions might be spared the devastating effects of hereditary disease or the challenges of disability, whether it was the pain of sickle-cell anemia to the ravages of Huntington's disease. But this power to "play God" also raises major ethical questions and poses threats for potential misuse. For decades, these questions have lived exclusively in the realm of science fiction, but as Kevin Davies powerfully reveals in his new book, this is all about to change. Engrossing and page-turning, Editing Humanity takes readers inside the fascinating world of a new gene editing technology called CRISPR, a high-powered genetic toolkit that enables scientists to not only engineer but to edit the DNA of any organism down to the individual building blocks of the genetic code. Davies introduces readers to arguably the most profound scientific breakthrough of our time. He tracks the scientists on the front lines of its research to the patients whose powerful stories bring the narrative movingly to human scale. Though the birth of the "CRISPR babies" in China made international news, there is much more to the story of CRISPR than headlines seemingly ripped from science fiction. In Editing Humanity, Davies sheds light on the implications that this new technology can have on our everyday lives and in the lives of generations to come.

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