

Section 3.2

How Humans Influence Ecosystems

Before You Read



1. Words to Know

Directions: Match the correct definition to the term on the left.
Scan pages 122 – 134 to find the definitions.

Words to Know	Definition
___ contamination	A. the dying out of a species
___ deforestation	B. water and wind erosion remove topsoil from bare land
___ extinction	C. the practice in which forests are logged or cleared for human use and are never replanted
___ habitat loss	D. found in Aboriginal cultures, this reflects human experience with nature gained over centuries
___ soil degradation	E. the ability of an ecosystem to maintain ecological processes; or humans using the resources of an ecosystem to meet our needs today without reducing the function and health of that ecosystem or the ability of future generations to meet their needs
___ sustainability	F. the destruction of habitats that usually results from human activities
___ traditional ecological knowledge	G. the introduction of chemicals, toxins, wastes, or micro-organisms into the environment in concentrations that are harmful to living things

2. Predicting the Main Ideas of Section 3.2

Directions: Scan pages 122 – 134 looking at the pictures and titles within this section. Predict six things you think you will learn in this section.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

