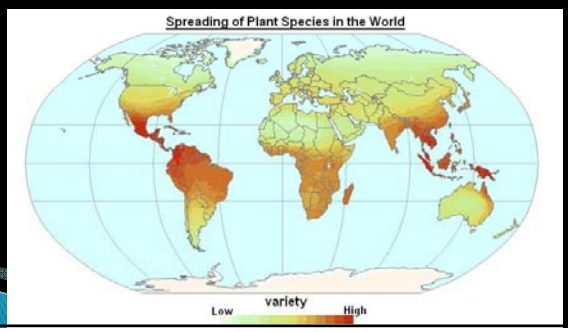
Biodiversity

Sections 3.3, 3.4 & 3.5

Importance of Biodiversity

- Biodiversity – the variety of life in an ecosystem
- Species richness – the number of species in an area (used to measure biodiversity)
- In general species richness tends to be greater near the equator



Biodiversity under Attack

- Extinct – no longer alive anywhere
- Extirpated – species that no longer exists in a specific area
- Endangered – a species facing imminent extirpation or extinction
- Threatened – a species that is likely to become endangered if factors reducing its survival are not changed
- Special Concern – a species that may become threatened or endangered because of a combination of factors

What causes risks to species?

- Loss of terrestrial ecosystems – making farmland and urban developments
- Fragmentation – dividing up a larger area into smaller fragments
- Loss of wetlands – building dams, draining wetlands
- Loss of aquatic ecosystems – dredging, over fishing

Native Species

- Species that have been present in a given location prior to human development
- Makes the ecosystem sustainable

Non-Native Species

- Species that have been transported to a given location
- Often don't have natural enemies
- Invasive Species – a non-native species whose introduction negatively impacts the natural ecosystem.

Purple Loosestrife

Controlling Introduced Species

- Chemical Control – pesticides – may kill other species too
- Mechanical Control – physical barriers or removal
- Biological Control – intentionally introducing a species that will control the invasive one.

Today's Tasks

- Pg. 86 #2, 4, 5, 6, 7
- Pg. 90 #4
- Pg. 94 #2, 4, 5