



Representing Global Biodiversity

According to some biologists we have entered a sixth extinction event, a period of mass extinction that rivals previous events caused by climate change and collisions with comets. This event is the result of human activities such as habitat degradation, invasive species, pollution, and overexploitation (harvesting) of organisms. At the root of all problems is human population growth, which is currently at 7 billion. We have identified a fraction of the total species on earth. Our knowledge of those species we have named is mostly superficial. Miss you, we hardly even know you. The goal of this assignment is to develop an appreciation for the diversity of life on earth by exploring the distribution of major groups. After researching the number of each species you will graph the percentage on the graph paper provided. After graphing the species write a description of the distribution of life.

Monera

Fungi

Algae

Higher plants

Protozoa

Porifera

Cnideria and Ctenophora

Platyhelminthes

Nematoda

Annelida

Mollusca

Echinodermata

Insecta

Crustacea, Spiders

Fishes

Amphibians

Reptiles

Birds

Mammals