

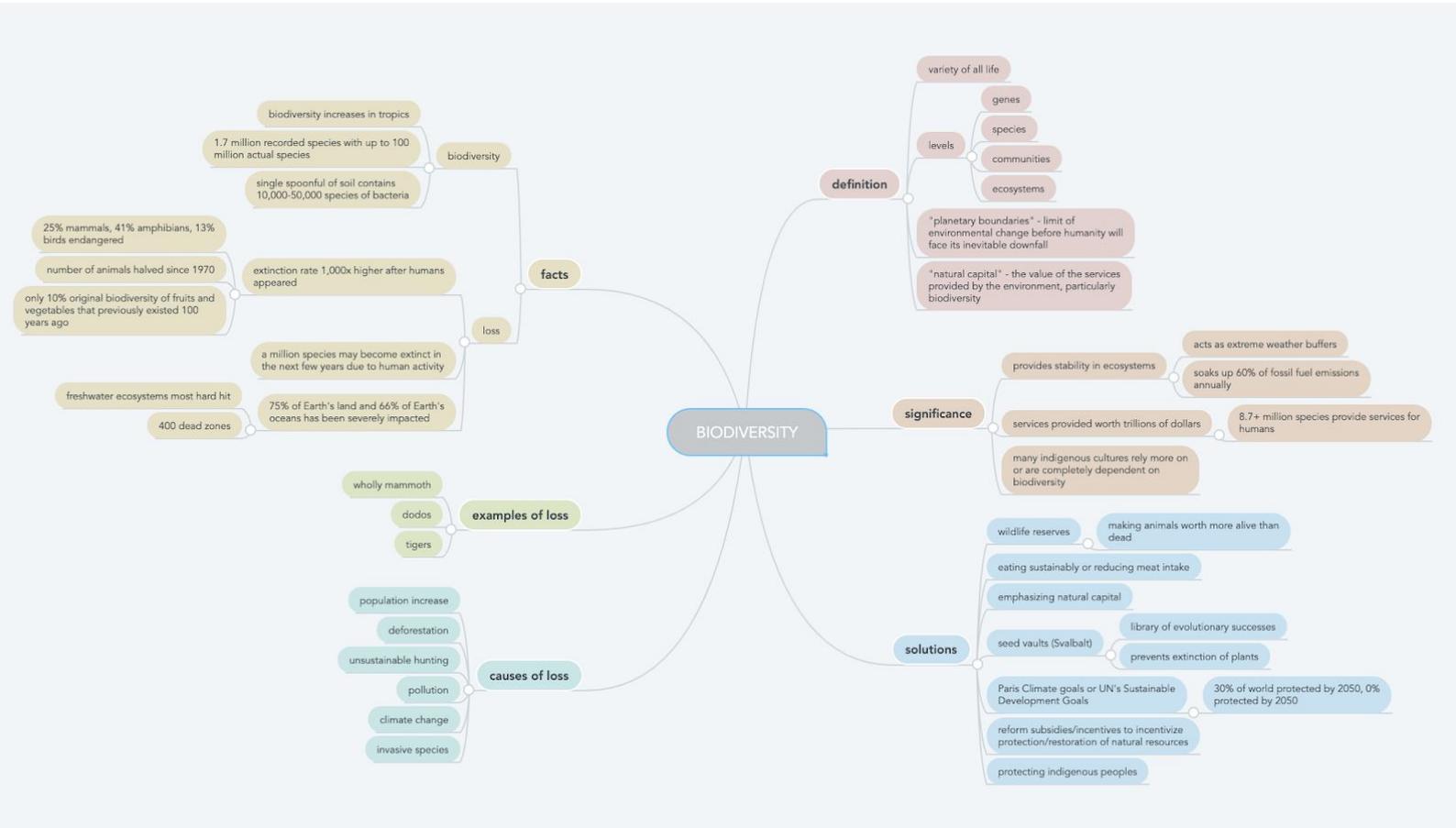
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Day 18 Greener



(For a closer view I also zoomed in on each separate side)

BIODIVERSITY

facts

biodiversity

- biodiversity increases in tropics
- 1.7 million recorded species with up to 100 million actual species
- single spoonful of soil contains 10,000-50,000 species of bacteria

loss

- extinction rate 1,000x higher after humans appeared
 - 25% mammals, 41% amphibians, 13% birds endangered
 - number of animals halved since 1970
 - only 10% original biodiversity of fruits and vegetables that previously existed 100 years ago
- a million species may become extinct in the next few years due to human activity
 - freshwater ecosystems most hard hit
 - 400 dead zones
 - 75% of Earth's land and 66% of Earth's oceans has been severely impacted

examples of loss

- woolly mammoth
- dodos
- tigers

causes of loss

- population increase
- deforestation
- unsustainable hunting
- pollution
- climate change
- invasive species

BIODIVERSITY

definition

variety of all life

- levels
 - genes
 - species
 - communities
 - ecosystems

"planetary boundaries" - limit of environmental change before humanity will face its inevitable downfall

"natural capital" - the value of the services provided by the environment, particularly biodiversity

significance

provides stability in ecosystems

acts as extreme weather buffers

soaks up 60% of fossil fuel emissions annually

services provided worth trillions of dollars

8.7+ million species provide services for humans

many indigenous cultures rely more on or are completely dependent on biodiversity

solutions

wildlife reserves

making animals worth more alive than dead

eating sustainably or reducing meat intake

emphasizing natural capital

seed vaults (Svalbalt)

library of evolutionary successes

prevents extinction of plants

Paris Climate goals or UN's Sustainable Development Goals

30% of world protected by 2050, 0% protected by 2050

reform subsidies/incentives to incentivize protection/restoration of natural resources

protecting indigenous peoples

Specifically in my mind map, I believe I fit into these categories:

- causes of loss - population
- causes of loss - climate change
- solutions - eating sustainably or reducing meat intake

One impactful way I can personally help increase biodiversity is by cutting out seafood from my diet. Not only is seafood not even that important to me, a lot of the seafood my family eats is imported from China or other extremely long distances. This is because seafood eaten in Chinese cultures are typically not available in the United States besides in large cities.

By cutting out seafood from my diet, I can make sure I don't ever even have the chance to eat unsustainably harvested seafood. Because overfishing is so drastic to the environment, not eating seafood would be the most direct way for me to not participate in it. Additionally, Chinese dishes are often made from rare seafood, which means that they are also most likely endangered animals, so I can completely get rid of the risk of accidentally eating endangered or threatened animals simply by not eating any seafood.

I believe this will be the easiest step on my journey to adopt a vegetarian diet, as I don't particularly enjoy seafood anyway. When I was younger, I swore off lobster with my friend after we witnessed the killing and boiling of one by my dad for Chinese's New Year. Ever since then, I have not had lobster, so I believe this is completely plausible for me to apply to other seafood. After telling my mom about my choice, it will not be difficult to implement as Chinese seafood is hard to come across anyway.