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An Extinction of the Ancient Species

Extinction is a term constantly used to illustrate a living animal or plant that wipe out from the history of planet, either because of limit resource or die out instantly due to disease.

If many species begin to extinct in large amount of number at once, then the idea of mass extinction does hold. According to *The Sixth Extinction*, Elizabeth Kolbert emphasizes that the idea of mass extinction is true and continues to hold. For example, in her studies about the relationship between human being and the environment. Kolbert addresses the human behavior to environmental change are the few results to the cause of the mass extinction. For instance, she mentions, ancient species such as huge cats and towering bears begin to wipe out due to slow breed and temperature change. As the proof to the idea of mass extinction does hold, Kolbert travels around the world to studies and examine the fossils of the ancient species and compare it with the present animal. She discovers that the ancient animal and the present animal have some similar and different. For example, Kolbert mentions the different between the elephant teeth and the mammoth teeth when she says, “Elephants’ teeth (and also mammoths’) are flat on top, with thin ridges that run from side to side. However, Mastodon teeth, by contrast, are cusped. They do, indeed, look as if they might belong to a jumbo-sized human” (Kolbert, p.26). The elephant

and the mammoth may look similar, but they have difference bone and teeth. Continue with the extinction of the mammoth, Kolbert presents another example of mass extinction, such as the Panamanian golden frog in El Valle. These golden frogs were mass in numbers. Moreover, they are considered the most resilient animals, and capable of surviving in many different environments. However, they begin to die-off because of diseases. After the death of the Panamanian frog, human start to realize the idea of mass extinction can happen anywhere and anytime, even occur to the fittest species. Despite the cause of mass extinction due to diseases and environmental changes, the other cause of mass extinction can take place in catastrophic events, include earthquakes, flood, and massive asteroid that strike the earth. Lastly, Kolbert concludes in her studies that out of the five comparable periods of mass extinction, the sixth extinction is the one that caused by the human. Human change the world so rapidly and intensely that other species can't keep up.

In addition, before Elizabeth Kolbert addresses the sixth extinction was the one that caused by human, she introduces the 1st four: the Ordovician period, late Devonian, end-Permian, and Triassic-Jurassic period. The first extinction took place in the Ordovician period. For example, Kolbert says, “The first took place during the late Ordovician period, some 450 million years ago, when living things were still mainly confined to the water” (Kolbert, p.6). According to Kolbert, the extinction wiped out almost 86% of life on Earth. The second extinction took place in the late Devonian period around 360 million years ago. It’s estimated that around 75 % of species are killed. The third extinction took place at the end of the Permian period. Kolbert describes this extinction is the most horrible one because it came close to wipe out the entire earth. For instance, she says, “The most devastating took place at the end of the Permian period, some 250 million years ago, and it came perilously close to emptying the earth out altogether” (Kolbert, p.6). She also mentions, “The event is sometimes referred to as ‘the mother of mass extinctions’ or ‘the great dying’ ”(Kolbert, p.6). The fourth extinction is occurred in the Triassic- Jurassic period between 200 million years ago. An estimated of up to 75% of all species died during the fourth extinction. In addition to the fourth extinction caused by the falling of asteroid, the fifth extinction is taken place in the Cretaceous period when the dinosaurs are wiped out. Alvarez team argues that the dinosaurs went extinct because of a large asteroid that hit the Earth around million years ago. However, at first Alvarez’s theory was not convincing by other scientist because of no evidence. Later, scientist realized Alvarez’s theory is true. For instance, when the fossil of many new animals is found, such as the mammoth, dinosaurs, the ammonite. As proof of this phenomenon, they compare different old and new fossil of species to determine their shapes and kinds. They believe that there is a time on earth that the mass extinction does exist, which wiped out many species almost the same time, rather than dying out gradually over time.

In "*The Sixth Extinction*", Elizabeth Kolbert emphasizes in her research on the relationship between human being and the environment. In Kolbert's research, she shows the human behavior and environmental change are the few results to the cause of the mass extinction. She clarifies the development, impact, and extinction of various species throughout the history of the earth. As the proof of the mass extinction does exist, Kolbert travels around the world to research and examine the fossils and bones of the past animal and compare it with the present animal. She found that the present animal has some relate to the past animal. Either similar in teeth and bones structures or living environments and hunting strategies. In Prologue, for example, the mass of extinction of the ancient species, such as huge cats, towering bears, turtles as big as elephants. These animals are powerful and fierce. However, the change of atmosphere of the planet makes the resource decrease. Animal begins to hunt the different animal for meat, even their own kinds. They began to lose in number and gradually over time disappear on earth. Continues, in chapter 1, Kolbert discusses the mass extinction of a Panamanian golden frog in El Valle. The golden frogs were extremely toxic and mass in numbers. They are the most resilient animals, and capable of surviving in many different environments. These frogs are found sitting on leaves and under trees. They lived in the hills around El Valle. Nonetheless, the frog around El Valle began to disappear. There is no explanation on why the golden frogs were wiped out. Kolbert learned that for most of the history of science, human didn't understand the concept of animal went extinct. Similar, Kolbert mentions Georges Cuvier, the influential naturalist, who first proposed that the ancient species does exist once, but they are wiped out. Curvier gives an example of the mastodon and the giant sloth. He concluded that these animals must have belonged to vanished species. An example of the huge cat and the golden frog are few argument that Kolbert makes to prove that the idea of mass extinction does exist once and it’s will be continues. Further, Korbert indicates in her research that there have been five comparable periods of mass extinction, but the sixth extinction is the one that caused by the human. The human changes the world rapidly and intensely that other species can't keep up.

Before Elizabeth Kolbert addresses the sixth extinction was the one that caused by human, she introduces the 1st four extinction are in the Ordovician period, late Devonian, end-Permian, and Triassic-Jurassic period. The first extinction is taking place in the Ordovician period, around 450 million years ago, when living things were still mainly confined to the water. Estimate about 86% of life on Earth was wiped out. The cause of extinction is glaciation and falling sea levels. The second extinction is taking place in the late Devonian period, around 360 million years ago. It’s estimated that around 75 % of species are killed. The third extinction is the end Permian period, which occurred 250 million years ago. The Permian extinction considered the most devastating because it came close to wipe out the entire earth. An estimate of more than 90% of species is wiped out. The event is referred to the mother of mass extinction or the great dying. The extinction is caused by the enormous volcanic eruption, which filled the air with carbon dioxide. Moreover, the ocean became more acidic, which affect the sea creature to die out. The fourth extinction is in the Triassic- Jurassic period, occurred between 200 million years ago. The fall of the asteroid, climate change, and flood impact on the life of the animal on earth, even the toughest competitor, like the dinosaur begin to wipe out. An estimate of up to 75% of all living species died during the fourth extinction. In addition to the fourth extinction caused by the falling of asteroid, the fifth extinction is taken place in the Cretaceous period when the dinosaurs, plesiosaurs, the mosasaurs, the Ammonites, and the pterosaurs once again are wiped out. Alvarez team argues that the dinosaurs went extinct because of a large asteroid that hit the Earth around million years ago. However, at first Alvarez’s theory was not convincing by other scientist because of no evidence. Later, scientist realized Alvarez’s theory is true. For instance, when the fossil of many new animals is found, such as the mammoth, dinosaurs, the ammonite. As proof of this phenomenon, they compare different old and new fossil of species to determine their shapes and kinds. They believe that there is a time on earth that the mass extinction does exist, which wiped out many species almost the same time, rather than dying out gradually over time.

After the first fifth extinction of the species come the sixth extinction, which caused by the human. Soon, there is will be no life on earth. Human is destroyed their own environment by pumping carbon dioxide to the ocean. For instance, Kolbert mentions “While the earliest version of Biosphere was a failure, the people who tried to live there got altitude sickness because the carbon dioxide levels were too high”. Not only carbon dioxide effect on human health, but also its effects on the life other species, such coral reef. When the pH of ocean rise, the risk of coral reef dissolve is very highly. As human continues to burn fossil fuel, which make the ocean to absorb more carbon dioxide. When the ocean absorbs more carbon dioxide than normal, the water become more acidic, which it’s a huge impact on both human and animal.

In “*A Prison Film Made in Prison*,” Nick Paumgarten analyzes the life Theothus Carter, an African American prisoner who gets in many troubles. Since people can’t be self-correct when looking at Theothus Carter as a prisoner, who would suffer his entire life in prison, Madeleine Sackler, a director of the O.G film, see Carter nothing but a talented actor that she would want him in her film. Carter has the skill and talent of becoming a great Hollywood actor. For example, Paumgarten says, “While remaining very much himself—to act without seeming to act—bowled over the filmmakers.” Although Carter talent in performance on the scene is surprised other actors, he constantly involved in crime is a negative effect on his life.

In the world today, many people abuse natural resources. They do all they can for their own profits, and they don't think about how their actions greatly affects our worlds. One such abuse of natural resources comes in the form of deforestation, or destruction of natural forest. It is primary due to human activities such as logging, cutting trees for fuel, agriculture, clearing land for livestock grazing, mining operation, oil extraction, dam building and factory building. And it has a huge impact on the world. While some people may receive immediate economic benefits from activities that result in deforestation, but short-term gains cannot recover the negative long-term economic losses. Moreover, deforestation can also cause flooding. Some flooding is extremely costly because they devastate homes and communities. Therefore, people could help to lower the rate of forestation at the local level by recycling. Papers we use everyday are making out of tree. By recycling the papers instead of throwing them in the trash, it could make the differences in the world. Recycling could decrease carbon footprint and reduce deforestation.