

# Explorers Comprehension

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions as fully as you can. Remember to try and quote in your answers.



## Passenger Pigeon

Not long ago, there were millions and millions of passenger pigeons in North America. These pigeons flew in large flocks. Sometimes the flock is so large that they blocked out the sun. They were called passenger pigeons because they travelled from place to place looking for food.

Passenger pigeons lived in oak and beech forests. In the 1850s, Man began to cut down forests to make way for building of farms, houses and railway tracks. Man used the wood for building and also for burning. The continuing deforestation destroyed the pigeons' nesting places and their natural habitat. The pigeons found it more and more difficult to survive. Man made matters worse by killing millions of them for food.

The passenger pigeons could not reproduce themselves fast enough to keep pace with Man's killings. The pigeons laid only one egg each time and only once a year in spring. It took only seventy years for all the passenger pigeons to disappear from the face of our Earth. The last passenger pigeon was seen in 1914.

The extinction of the passenger pigeon which were in existence only a hundred years ago is not a unique case. Man has caused many species of animals to become extinct with many others on their way to extinction. We share this Earth with many other living things and it is our responsibility to make an effort to preserve this Earth.



1. What does deforestation mean?

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2. Why were they called passenger pigeons?

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3. Why did deforestation take place in the 1850s?

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4. Why were the pigeons unable to reproduce fast enough?

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5. How did deforestation affect the passenger pigeons?

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6. How much time did it take for the passenger pigeon species to become extinct?

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7. What can Man do to help preserve the existence of animals on Earth?

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8. Research and present which other animals have become extinct due to Man's actions.

