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When did the 6th mass extinction start

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AI Overview

The sixth mass extinction—also called the

Holocene extinction or Anthropocene extinction—began roughly **12,000 to 11,700 years ago** at the end of the last ice age, coinciding with the rise of human expansion and agriculture.

Timeline and Phases

- **Early Phase (12,000–10,000 years ago):** Early human migration and the birth of farming triggered the first wave of losses, notably large ice-age mammals (megafauna) like mammoths, saber-toothed cats, and giant ground sloths.
- **Accelerated Phase (1500 CE to Present):** According to research tracked by the Natural History Museum, the pace of species loss escalated sharply after the 1500s due to global exploration, industrialization, and colonization.
- **Modern Crisis:** Current extinction rates are estimated to be 100 to 10,000 times higher than natural background rates, driven largely by habitat destruction, intensive agriculture, pollution, and climate change.

Would you like to know more about which specific animal groups are currently suffering the highest rates of loss, or the **main human activities** driving the crisis?

The Sixth Mass Extinction | WWF
World Wildlife Fund

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en.wikipedia.org › wiki › Holocene_extinction

Holocene extinction - Wikipedia

The Holocene extinction was preceded by the Late Pleistocene extinctions at the end of the last ice age (to which human activity also likely contributed) and ...

Overview · Historic extinction · Contemporary extinction

www.ebsco.com › research-starters › science › holocene-extinction

Holocene extinction | Science | Research Starters - EBSCO

It is also sometimes referred to as the Anthropocene extinction or the sixth mass extinction. The Holocene epoch began 11,700 years before 2000 CE at the end of ...

www.worldwildlife.org › Resources › Explainers

What is the sixth mass extinction and what can we do about it? - WWF

The planet has experienced five previous mass extinction events, the last one occurring 65.5 million years ago which wiped out the dinosaurs from existence.

academic.oup.com › OUP Academic › Biol J Linn Soc › Review

Emergence of a sixth mass extinction? - Oxford Academic

The most recent extinction of this magnitude occurred at the close of the Cretaceous about 65 million years ago. The new mass extinction prognosis began about ...

evolution.berkeley.edu › mass-extinction › the-earths-sixth-mass-extinction

The Earth's sixth mass extinction - Understanding Evolution

Have humans pushed the Earth into its sixth mass extinction? Evidence suggests that we are well on our way to that outcome, if not in a mass extinction already.

www.mossy.earth › rewilding-knowledge › sixth-mass-extinction

What Is The Sixth Mass Extinction And What Can I Do About It?

Concretely, it means that 3 out of 4 species that we are familiar with could be gone within a few decades. In the past 40 years, we have annihilated about half ...

The Sixth Mass Extinction Event · The Drivers · The consequences of a sixth...

flexbooks.ck12.org › FlexBooks 2.0 › CK-12 Biology for High School

Mass Extinction | CK-12 Foundation

The sixth mass extinction, also known as the Holocene extinction, is considered to have started around 10,000 years ago at the end of the last Ice Age.

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Sixth mass extinction | Britannica

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