Study Questions, Week 9

Topics for the Week:
Plants & Animals; Forests, Biodiversity

Readings for the Week:


Biodiversity Websites:
http://research.amnh.org/biodiversity/center/what.html
http://wri.igc.org/biodiv/
http://endangered.fws.gov/
http://www.biodiversityhotspots.org/xp/Hotspots/hotspotsScience/

Questions:

(1) What variables contribute to deforestation in tropical areas? What role do government policies play in deforestation?

(2) Describe the processes through which deforestation occurs in the Philippines, according to Kummer and Turner. What evidence do they provide to support their model?

(3) What are some problems researchers face when they try to model deforestation processes?

(4) What is the relationship between law and deforestation? Between civil society and deforestation? Which is more likely to contribute to sustainable forest management?

(5) What is meant by the term *biodiversity*? Why is biodiversity important?

(6) In what ways is biodiversity threatened? Is this a serious problem?

(7) What are the criteria for listing a species as *endangered*? *As threatened*? How big a problem are endangered species at the federal and state level?

(8) What is a biodiversity *hotspot*? Why was this concept created? What are some problems with this approach to biodiversity protection?