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- More than 20,000 species have been used for medicinal purposes
- 41% of prescription drugs in the USA have their active ingredients derived from living organisms (25% from plants, 13% from microorganisms, 3% from animals)
- Over 70% of promising anti-cancer drugs come from plants in the rainforest

Diversity of Interaction:

- The success of survival of a particular species may depend entirely on its interaction with another species
- What are humans dependent on other species for?
- What are some other interdependent interactions?

Should we be concerned about biodiversity?

What we know:

The Earth is losing species at an alarming rate

- Some scientists estimate that as many as 3 species per hour are going extinct and 20,000 extinctions occur each year.
- when species of plants and animals go extinct, many other species are affected.

■ Food Supply

- Heterotroph vs. Autotrophs
- H: obtain energy rich nutrients by consuming living/dead organisms

A: uses sources of energy (water, gases, minerals) to produce nutrients

- Protection
- Transportation
- Reproduction
- Digestion



Threats to biodiversity

Habitat destruction

Pollution
Species
Introductions
Global Climate
Change
Exploitation

