

# Mass Exploitation

1800 - 1850

While wildlife and natural resources once seemed abundant, the effects of their exploitation became more apparent during this period, when the human population began skyrocketing just as species were beginning to thin out—or even go extinct.

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**1800:**

**JAGUARS DISAPPEAR:** The jaguar is gone from the United States.

**1803:**

**LOUISIANA PURCHASE:** The United States purchases Louisiana Territory from France, nearly doubling its land area.

**1804-1806:**

**LEWIS & CLARK ERA:** Lewis and Clark explore the West. During this time, the buffalo population was estimated at 50,000,000 and passenger pigeons numbered up to two billion in a single flight.

**1829:**

**WELLAND SHIP CANAL:** The Welland Ship Canal, built between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, allows sea lamprey to enter all Great Lakes.

**1830:**

**1 BILLION PEOPLE:** The world's human population reaches one billion for the first time.

**1838:**

**FINAL TRAPPER RENDEZVOUS:** The last trapper rendezvous occurs at Popo Agie Creek in Wind River Mountains, Wyoming.

**1844:**

**GREAT AUK EXTINCT:** Great auk is the first documented species in North America to become extinct by the hand of man.

**1849:**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR:** The U.S. Department of the Interior was established in 1849.

**1850:**

**MORE DISAPPEARANCES:** By 1850, Eastern elk, woodland bison, and beaver are nearly gone.