

*The New Pangaea*

Why is Kolbert interested in the bat census near Albany, New York? What do these bats suffer from? What is happening to the bats across the U. S. and Europe?

Who was Alfred Wegener, and what do we best remember him for?

How does “continental drift” help account for species distributions?

With regard to the appearance of new species in an area, what is the empty-chamber option? What is the invasive-species community “establishment”?

What does Kolbert mean when she says, on p. 202, “Of these five to fifteen, one will turn out to be the ‘bullet in the chamber’”?

What is “enemy release,” and why is it important? What happened with the wolfsnail in Hawaii? With the brown tree snake in Guam? With *cryphonectyria parasitica* in the United States? With zebra mussels on our rivers?

What is the New Pangaea? And what is it causing?

*The Rhino Gets an Ultrasound*

Who is Suci, and why is she so important? What has happened the the five kinds of rhinos in the world?

What do we know about giant mammals and birds living long ago, in the Miocene? And what do we know about the extinctions of megafauna? What do scientists conclude about the likelihood that primitive human beings caused the extinction of those giants?

Consider Kolbert’s last sentence in Chapter 11: “Though it might be nice to imagine there once was a time when man lived in harmony with nature, it’s not clear that he ever really did.”