Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

ex·ter·min·ate [exterminate exterminates exterminated exterminating] *BrE* [ɪk'st3 m ne] t *NAmE* [ɪk'st3 rm ne] t verb ~ sb/sth

to kill all the members of a group of people or animals

Syn: †wipe out

· Fur seals were nearly exterminated a few years ago.

Derived Word [†]extermination

Verb forms:

present simple	
I / you / we /they	exterminate
	BrE /sk 'sta:mmest/
	NAmE /ik 'stairmineit/
he / she /it	exterminates
	BrE /sk 'sta:mmests/
	NAmE /ik 'stammineits/
past simple, past participle	exterminated
	BrE /sk 'sta:mznestsd/
	NAmE /ik 'starmineitid/
-ing form	exterminating
	BrE /sk'sta:msnestsn/
	NAmE /ik 'starmineitin/

Word Origin:

late Middle English (in the sense 'drive out'): from Latin exterminat- 'driven out', from the verb exterminare, from ex- 'out' + terminus 'boundary'. The sense 'destroy' (mid 16th cent.) comes from the Latin of the Vulgate, the Latin version of the Bible prepared in the late 4th century.

exterminate

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

ex fer mi nate /ɪk'sta məne tık'sta mone \$t-a / BrE AmE verb [transitive]

[Date: 1500-1600; Language: Latin; Origin: past participle of exterminare 'to drive out', from terminus 'edge]

to kill large numbers of people or animals of a particular type so that they no longer exist:

* Staff use the poison to exterminate moles and rabbits.

-exterminator noun [countable]

-extermination /Ik,st3 mainean, Ik,st3 minate and countable and countable]:

the extermination of the indigenous peoples

THESAURUS

to kill a large number of people

• massacre to kill a large number of people in a violent way: Thousands of peaceful demonstrators were massacred by the soldiers.

• slaughter to kill a large number of people in a violent way. Slaughter is also used about killing animals for food: The army slaughtered thousands of civilians in an effort to stop the revolt. | The pigs were slaughtered on the farm.

• exterminate to kill large numbers of a particular group, so that they no longer exist: Hitler's goal was to exterminate the Jews.

exterminate

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