

BIOLOGY

DR. O'MALLEY

ecology

Classification

- Carolus Linnaeus
- KPC OFGS
- Types: Food Type, structure/morphology, habitat
- Why classify? so all can use the same names

Populations

- population density
- growth rate, birth rate, mortality/death rate
- age structure chart
- carrying capacity (K)
- equilibrium / disequilibrium
- world pop. Δ es w/ the way we use resources.

Succession

- Primary succession (1°)
- Secondary succession (2°)
- Pioneer species
 - long roots.
 - N-fixing bacteria

Biomes

- Taiga • Desert
- Tundra • Savanna
- Deciduous Forest
- Tropical Forest
- Temperate Grassland

Systems

↳ LORAX
↳ parts of ecosystem work together

Food Webs

TROPHIC LEVEL
Producers
Herbivores
Decomposers
Consumers
Omnivores
Carnivores

Predation

→ Predator-Prey Relations

↓
Competition
↳ For Resources
• food
• habitat
• mates

↘ Defences
• mimicry
• chemical defence
• poison
• camouflage
• teeth & claws

Symbiosis

- commensalism
- mutualism
- parasitism

• Biology Unit 1 Vocabulary: Ecology

ECOLOGY
VOCAB

15 Aug
2013

Ecology

Ecosystem

Organism

Habitat

Resources

Niche

Abiotic

Acclimation

Interdependence

Greenhouse effect

Population

Conformers

Regulators

Dormancy

Migration

Generalist

Specialist

16

1-1

Name and period: _____
Aug 16, 2012



EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB)

An arborist came to your house to look at your trees, because some are losing foliage. He notices that you have two Ash trees on your property, and comments that there is a known incidence of Emerald Ash Borer in your neighborhood. The arborist recommends treating your trees with a product called TREE-äge. Should you treat your trees? Why or why not? **Use the provided materials to complete the following tasks. Be prepared to share your answers with the class. Write your answers in complete sentences when the answer is not a figure.**

Create a figure that shows the life cycle of the Emerald Ash Borer.

Create a food web that includes the Emerald Ash Borer.

You have noticed that other Ash trees in your neighborhood are already infected with EAB. Are your trees at risk?

By writing your ideas and reasoning below, be prepared to discuss with the class the ecological, environmental, and financial impact of the EAB infestation.

Systematics & Classification

20 Aug 2013 (run over to 21 Aug)

(Cut cards while doing NB grade)

15 Aug
20

Classification (Carolus Linnaeus)

Animalia	Kingdoms	Kings
Cordata	Phylum	Play
Mammalia	Class	Chess
Rodentia	Order	On
Sciuridae	Family	Fat
Tamiasciurus	Genus	Green
hudsonicus	species	Stools/Squares
Common squirrel		

- Types of Classification
- 1) Food type - Food
 - 2) Habitat - Ecos
 - 3) Structure - desc^{ation} (wings, legs, parts)

Lumpers?
Splitters?
Neither?

Why classify: 8/21

- Scientists speaking different languages can identify species
- Clarifies organism when the same common name is used for different animals/plants
- Consistent



Mystery Organism

TRILLOBITE



Habitat: _____

Diet: _____

18

16

Genus species	Family	Order	Class	Phylum
Earthworm		Megadrilacea	Oligochaeta	Annelida
Daddy Longlegs	Pholcidae	Opiliones	Arachnida	Arthropoda
<i>Lithobius sp</i>	Lithobiidae	Lithobiomorpha	Chilopoda	Arthropoda
<i>Buprestis aurulenta</i>	Buprestidae	Coleoptera	Insecta	Arthropoda
<i>Calosoma calidum</i>	Carabidae	Coleoptera	Insecta	Arthropoda
<i>Cicidela oregona</i>	Carabidae	Coleoptera	Insecta	Arthropoda
<i>Adalia bipunctata</i>	Coccinellidae	Coleoptera	Insecta	Arthropoda
<i>Holorusia hespera</i>	Tipuloidea	Diptera	Insecta	Arthropoda
Giant Crane Fly				
Mayfly (larvae)		Ephemeroptera	Insecta	Arthropoda

Insect Classification

20 Aug 2013

mollusc



Banana Slug
Ariolimax columbianus
Habitat: moist forests
Diet: leaves, animal droppings, dead plant material

arachnid



Daddy Longlegs
Family Pholidae
Habitat: cool, damp places
Diet: flies, insects

mollusc

Eel
Phylum Annelida, over 1,500 species
Habitat: soil
Diet: plant matter



Sow Bug
Oniscus asellus
Habitat: gardens, areas with people
Diet: decaying plants and animals



Oregon Swallowtail
Papilio machaon oregonus
Habitat: riparian areas
Diet: nectar



Field Crescent
Phycodes campestris
Habitat: pen areas
Diet: nectar



Harvester Ant
Pogonomyrmex spp.
Habitat: open ground
Diet: dead insects and seeds



Golden paper wasp
Polybia fuscicornis
Habitat: pen areas
Diet: goldenrod nectar, insects



Snowberry Clearwing
Homocidus affinis
Habitat: open areas
Diet: nectar

butterflies



Bumble Bee
Bombus spp.
Habitat: clearings and meadows
Diet: pollen

social insects

Habitat: gardens and moist forests
Diet: insects



Clown Millipede
Harpagophis haydeniana
Habitat: Douglas-fir trees
Diet: plants, detritus

many pairs of legs



American Emerald
Cordule shufeldti
Habitat: ponds and open lakes
Diet: insects

Damselflies



Boreal Bluet
Enallagma boreale
Habitat: ponds and lakes
Diet: aphids and baby grasshoppers

Beetles

Habitat: streams and small rivers
Diet: dead or drowning insects



Rough Plant Bug
Brachynema spp.
Habitat: forests
Diet: caterpillars, plant nectar, plant seeds

legs under neath



Two-spot Ladybug
Adalia bipunctata
Habitat: trees, shrubs, buildings
Diet: aphids



Golden Jewel Beetle
Buprestis aurulenta
Habitat: coniferous forests
Diet: dead wood (larvae)



Single-banded Backswimmer
Notonecta unifasciata
Habitat: ponds, lakes, slow streams
Diet: fish, insects

True Bugs

Giant crane fly
Holorusia hespera
Habitat: forested areas
Diet: dead organic matter (larvae)

Food Webs

21 Aug 2013

Essential Questions:

1. How do organisms interact with each other and with the environment in which they live?
2. How does energy flow through a food web?

How does EAB interact w/ its environment? • EATS ASH TREES
→ • EATEN BY WOODPECKERS

Why does it need to eat? • ENERGY
SUN → PLANTS → ~~2nd~~ 1st CONSUMER ... PREDATOR

★ DISTRIBUTE HANDOUT ★ ITS a puzzle!

FOOD CHAIN (Linear)
SPOTTED OWL IS ENDANGERED!
fungi → flying squirrel → pileated woodpecker → owl

Food Webs show connections

Homework: make food web on page 22-23
arrow goes FROM food TO eater

22 Aug 2013

Producers - use sun for photosynthesis

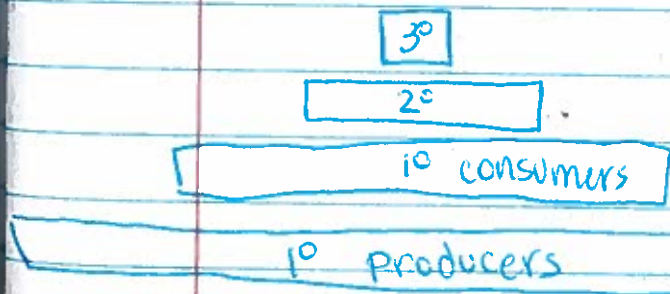
Consumers {
Herbivores - eat plants
Decomposers - eat dead organisms (eg fungi)
Omnivores - eat plants? animals
Carnivores - eat only animals

Population - group of individuals living in the same area

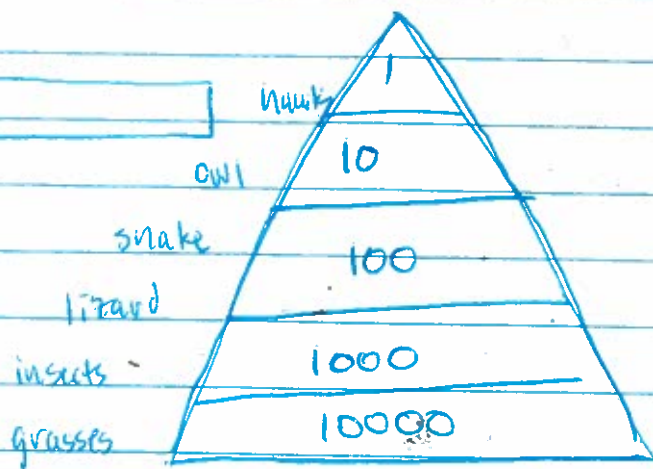
Ecosystem - community of organisms? physical factors w/which they interact

Ecological Pyramid

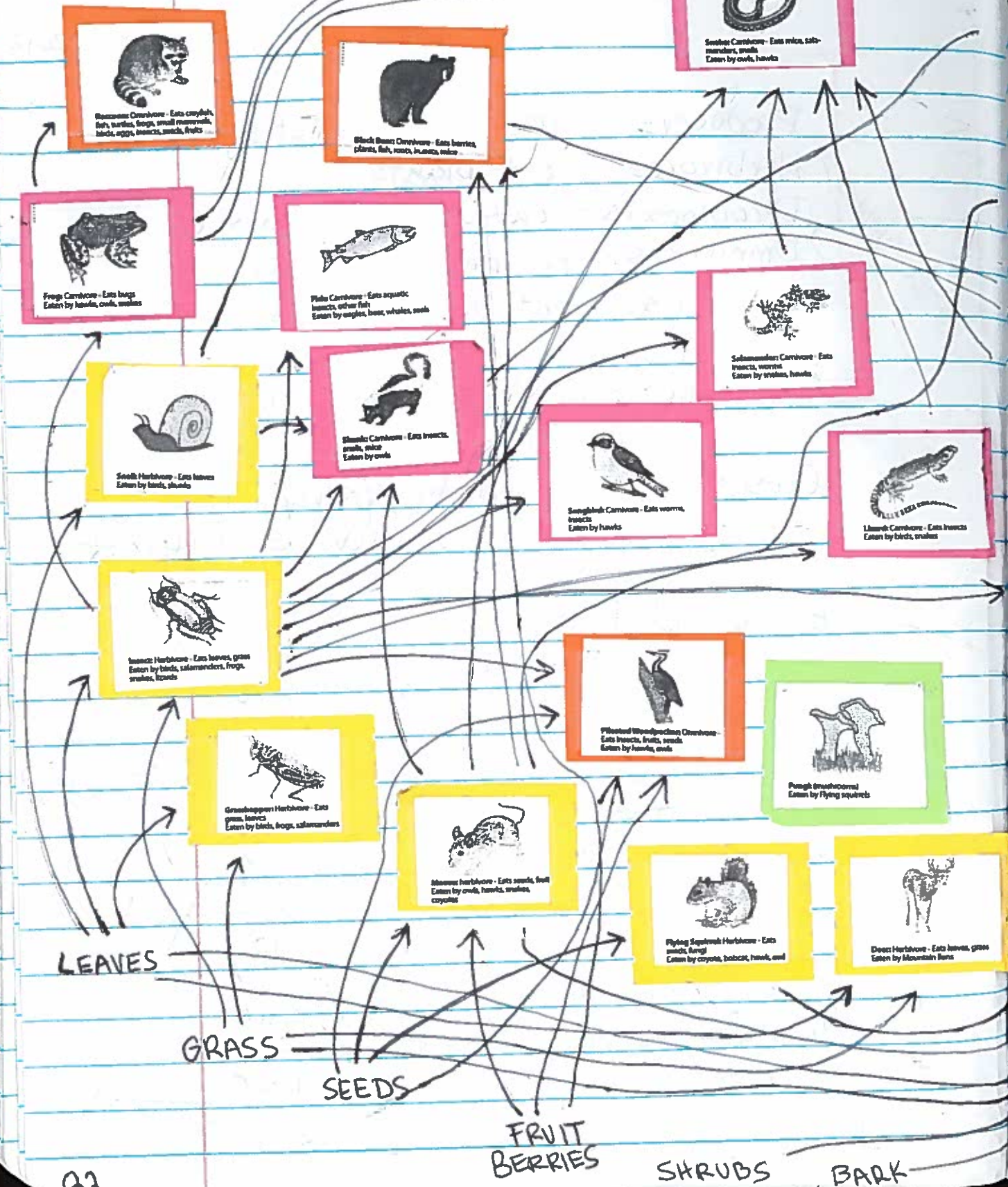
Biomass - amt of living organic matter in an organism (g/m^2 or cal/m^2)



Pyramid of Productivity
- describes energy



FOOD WEB



FOOD WEB

21-22 Aug

What is the impact of carnivores on the food web?

Would more species be affected if you ~~im~~ eliminated the top carnivores, or the primary producers?

PRODUCTIVITY

FISH SKUNK SCREWBIRD LIZARD
PORCUPINE WOODPECKER RACON B
MOUSE SQUIRREL DEER FUNGI
SNAIL INSECT GRASSHOPPER

LEAVES GRASS SEEDS BARK
FRUIT BERRIES SHRUBS

CARNIVORE

OMNIVORE

HERBIVORE

PRIMARY

FOOD WEB IMPACTS

23 Aug 2013

Explain what might happen to the organisms in your food web if unusually high amts of rain fell? creeks? rivers flooded.



★EQUILIBRIUM/
DISEQUILIBRIUM★

List other natural disturbances that might affect the food web.

1. Fire
2. Drought
3. Volcanic Eruptions
4. Too much of a nutrient
5. Too much sediment/landslide
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Disturbances can:

- Restart succession
- increase diversity
- decrease diversity
- promote co-existence of competitors
- promote co-existence of predator & prey

Scientific Method

26 Aug 2013

Purpose:

- Question
- Why are we doing an experiment.

- How do organisms interact and impact their environment?
- How do physical & chemical constraints affect the homeostasis of an organism?

Procedure:

How we collect data to answer the question.

Ecocolumn

- what are biotic & abiotic factors.
- carrying capacity

What data will we collect? How?

Results:

Data

Use our collected data to answer questions.

Conclusion:
Use data to answer question.

Tomorrow

- Set up diagram
- Dirt
- seeds (grass)
- Algae

Obs

- Water depth
- seed
- sprout?
- snail

Eco column Setup

27 Aug 2013

Purpose

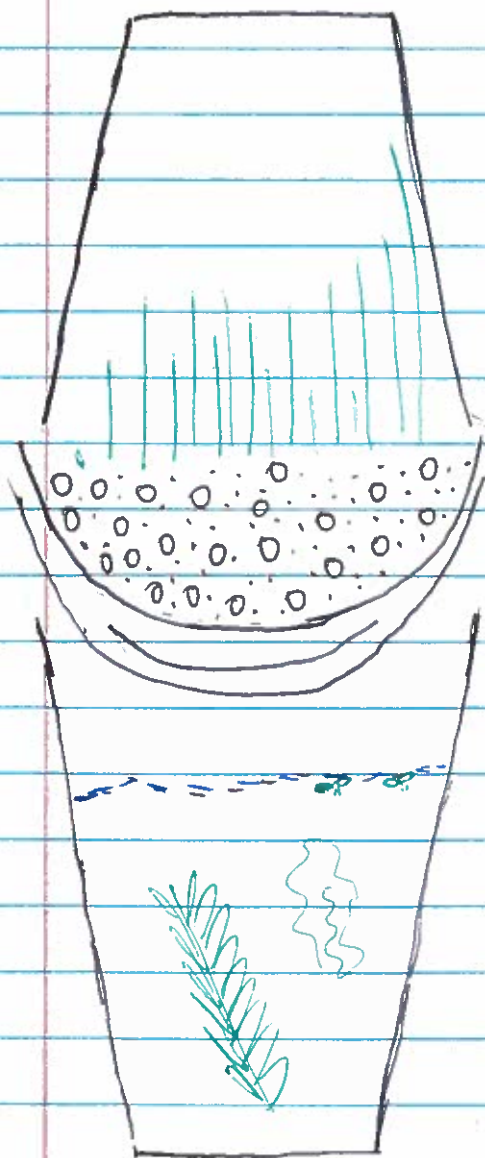
biotic

abiotic

- How do organisms interact and impact their environment?

- How do physical & Chemical constraints affect the homeostasis of an organism?

PROCEDURE



- ← Cup over dome lid
- ← grass seed
- ← damp soil
- ← 2 dome lids · coffee filter between

- ← water
 - elodea
 - filamentous algae
 - duckweed

datesoil
wet/
drywater
color, clarityalgae
#, length
colorgrass
color, length

notes

Symbiosis

28 Aug 2003

Symbiosis - organisms living together
 commensalism - live together - no harm, no benefit
 mutualism - both benefit
 parasitism - one is harmed

Animals	Relationship	Comments
Barnacle/Whale		Barnacles create home sites by attaching themselves to whales. This relationship neither harms nor benefits the whales.
Remora/Shark		Remoras attach themselves to a shark's body. They then travel with the shark and feed on the leftover food scraps from the shark's meals. This relationship neither harms nor benefits the shark.
Bee/Maribou stork		The stork uses its saw-like bill to cut up the dead animals it eats. As a result, the dead animal carcass is accessible to some bees for food and egg laying. This relationship neither harms nor benefits the stork.
Silverfish/Army ants		Silverfish live and hunt with army ants, and share the prey. They neither help nor harm the ants.
Hermit crab/Snail shell		Hermit crabs live in shells made and then abandoned by snails. This relationship neither harms nor benefits the snails.
Cowbird/Bison		As bison walk through grass, insects become active and are seen and eaten by cowbirds. This relationship neither harms nor benefits the bison.
Yucca plant/Yucca moth		Yucca flowers are pollinated by yucca moths. The moths lay their eggs in the flowers where the larvae hatch and eat some of the developing seeds. Both species benefit.
Honey guide bird/Badger		Honey guide birds alert and direct badgers to bee hives. The badgers then expose the hives and feed on the honey first. Next the honey guide birds eat. Both species benefit.
Ostrich/Gazelle		Ostriches and gazelles feed next to each other. They both watch for predators and alert each other to danger. Because the visual abilities of the two species are different, they each can identify threats that the other animal would not see as readily. Both species benefit.
Oxpecker/Rhinoceros		Oxpeckers feed on the ticks found on a rhinoceros. Both species benefit.
Wrasse fish/Black sea bass		Wrasse fish feed on the parasites found on the black sea bass's body. Both species benefit.
Mistletoe/Spruce tree		Mistletoe extracts water and nutrients from the spruce tree to the tree's detriment.
Cuckoo/Warbler		A cuckoo may lay its eggs in a warbler's nest. The cuckoo's young will displace the warbler's young, and the warbler will raise the cuckoo's young.
Mouse/Flea		A flea feeds on a mouse's blood to the mouse's detriment.
Deer/Tick		Ticks feed on deer blood to the deer's detriment.

Review for Biology Test 1, August 30, 2013

Ecology

Ecosystem

Organism

Habitat

Resources

Niche

Abiotic

Biotic

Interdependence

Population

Biomass

Who was the important scientist who first began using our modern methods of classification?
How did he classify organisms?

Why do scientists classify organisms and give them Latin names?

How do we know when we are reading a Genus and species name?

In what ways do organisms interact with each other?

How does energy move through a food web?

What do producers do?

What kinds of consumers are there? What does each kind eat?

Draw an ecological pyramid. Label each trophic level. Give an example of an organism that might be in that trophic level. Draw the accompanying food chain.

What is a pyramid of productivity? Can you draw one, with an example food chain?

What happens to a food web if you eliminate primary producers?

What natural disturbances might impact a food web? Give 3 examples.

Vocabulary

3 Sept 2013

Population

Population Density

Dispersion

Carrying Capacity

*tie to
food web
disturbance*

Stability

Equilibrium

Birth Rate

Mortality Rate

Growth Rate

Age structure

Developed Countries

Developing Countries

Populations Homework

4 Sept 2013

- Read "Populations" (Section 20-1)
- Answer questions on Page 382
"Section 20-1 Review"

Populations Notes

Populations

Symbiosis – living together

Clownfish and anemone

Kinds of symbiosis

Commensalism (neutral)

Mutualism (positive)

Parasitism (negative)

Survivorship curve: story of life and death.

Humans, frogs, songbirds

Carrying capacity – maximum amount of individuals an ecosystem can support

r-selected – take over a niche as fast as possible (put life in growth rate)

In an unstable environment, high fecundity (lots of babies), small body size, early maturity, short generation time, dispersed offspring.

K-selected – live a long time (put life in carrying capacity)

In a stable environment, large body size, long life expectancy, high parental care, fewer offspring

*continuum between K and r selected species. Some species vary throughout their lifespan, or there is a difference between sexes in one species.

date grass soil water
color + height damp/dry color clarity

36

Population $\hat{=}$ Carrying Capacity

10 Sept. 2013

How is carrying capacity (K) indicative of a population?

Factors Influencing a Population

- (1) Competition for available food
- (2) Size of food supply
- (3) dispersal or migration to new territories

Carrying capacity — max # of organisms that can be supported by an ecosystem.

Home range — a population's already well-established territory

- "Year" = 1 minute
- to survive, collect @ least 5, not more than 10
- reproduce = # that survived 4th year - don't return all food to plot

<u>YEAR</u>	<u># of Deer @ Start</u>	<u># of Deer @ end</u>	<u>Prediction?</u>
-------------	--------------------------	------------------------	--------------------

1
2
3
4
5

4 55 20

P. 387 # 1-3

per
6

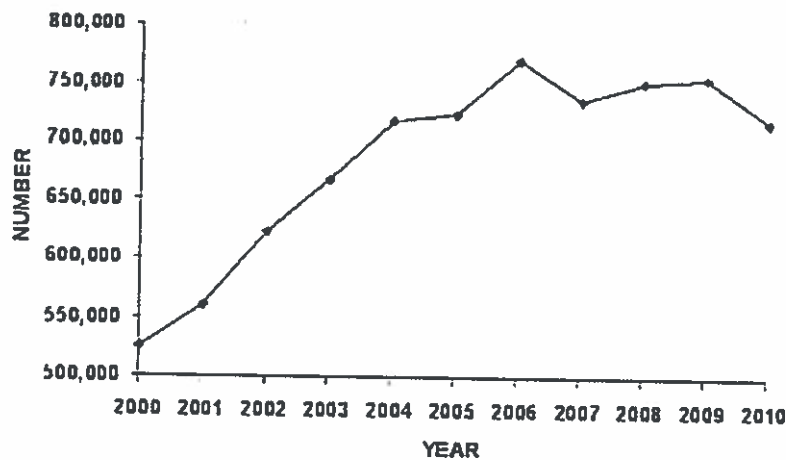
Population & Carrying Capacity

11 Sept 2013

How does carrying capacity (K) influence population growth?

- using the text & our activity yesterday:
- considering the population trend for deer in Dayton, what can you say about birth & death rates?
- Have those rates changed?

Deer Population Trends, 2000-10



Name: _____

Period _____

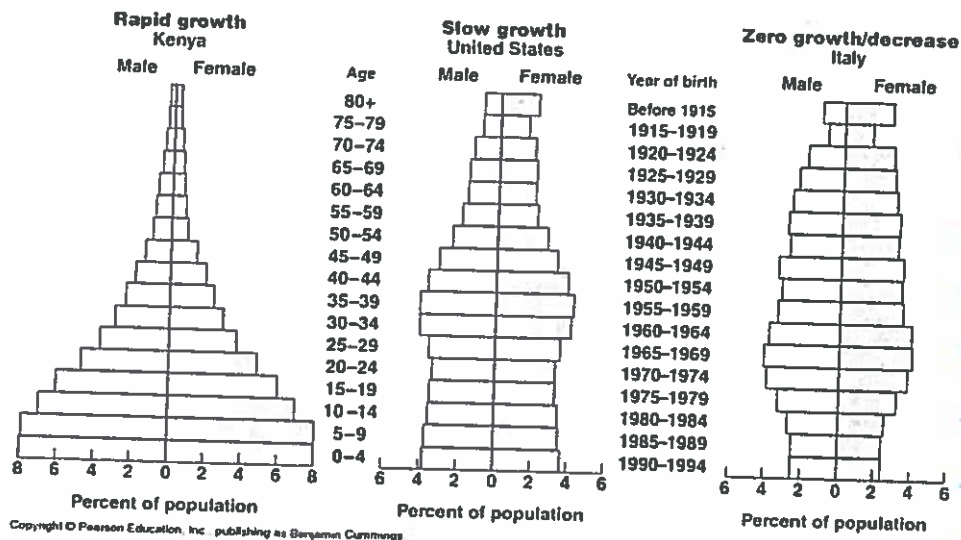
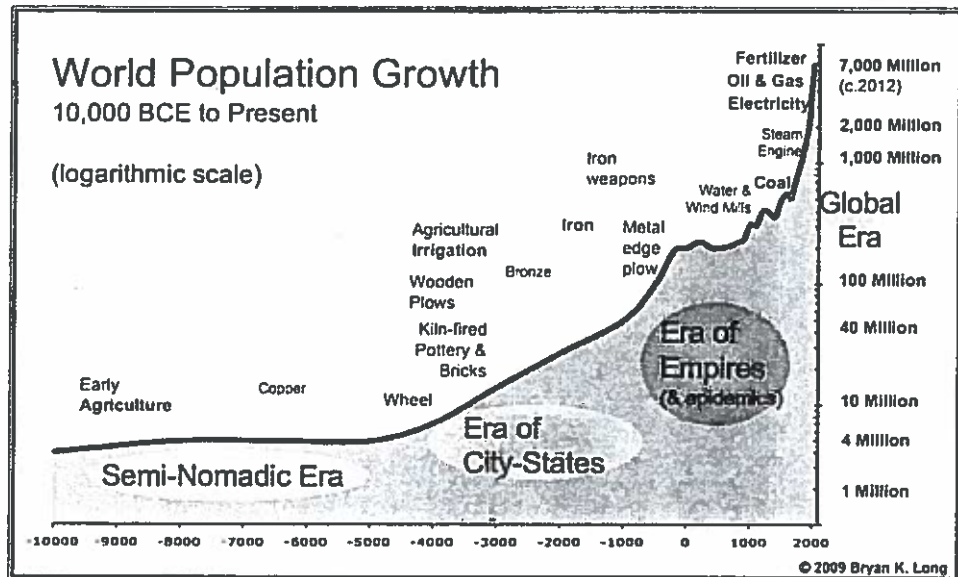
Notes 27c(Biomes Video)



- 1) Long term patterns of temperature and moisture is called _____.
- 2) The Tundra covers what fraction of the earth's land area? _____.
- 3) How cold can the tundra get _____ degrees C.
- 4) Because of _____, trees can not grow their roots in the soil.
- 5) What is the largest continuous biome on earth? _____.
- 6) What is the main type of precipitation in a Taiga? _____.
- 7) Deciduous forests have mild winters and _____ summers.
- 8) Grasslands are now covered with _____ fields and _____ raising grounds.
- 9) Tropic grasslands are called _____.
- 10) How many feet of rain can the rainforest get a year? _____.
- 11) What is form at a region of dry air? _____.
- 12) Deserts cover what percent of the earth's land area. _____.
- 13) Some deserts may go _____ without rainfall.

Human Populations

12 Sept 2013



↑ agriculture ↑
land war

For different Eras
in the history of
man, ~~human~~ ^Kpopul~~y~~
was stable @ different ~~amounts~~
populations

Characterize the
growth of the
human population
- discuss growth of
the pop. (exponential?
logistic?)

What are the axes?
What are the 4 Eras?
What factors contributed
to an increase in K
(carrying capacity)?

- Discuss K .

What tools/knowledge
made an increase
in K possible?

Why did K change
in these different
periods of history?

Will we reach a
max K ? What
technologies need to
be developed?

How are population
in different parts
of the world different?
Characterize them w/ K

- What kind of growth?
- What is allowing
pop growth
- How does the graph
show rapid/slow/no
growth.

Predation

16 Sept 2013

*book pg 396 ch 21

*Define Terms

*Show how they relate

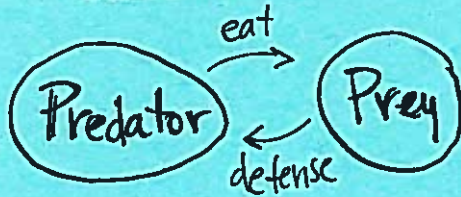
- predation
- predator
- prey
- natural selection
- defenses (text + pics)
- competition
- what animals compete for

What I expect to see in notebooks:

- what these words mean
- what predators have to do with natural selection
- what do organisms compete for (examples)
- how does prey defend itself (examples)

Natural Selection

★ fittest wins ★



Competition

Compete for:

- food
- habitat / shelter
- mates

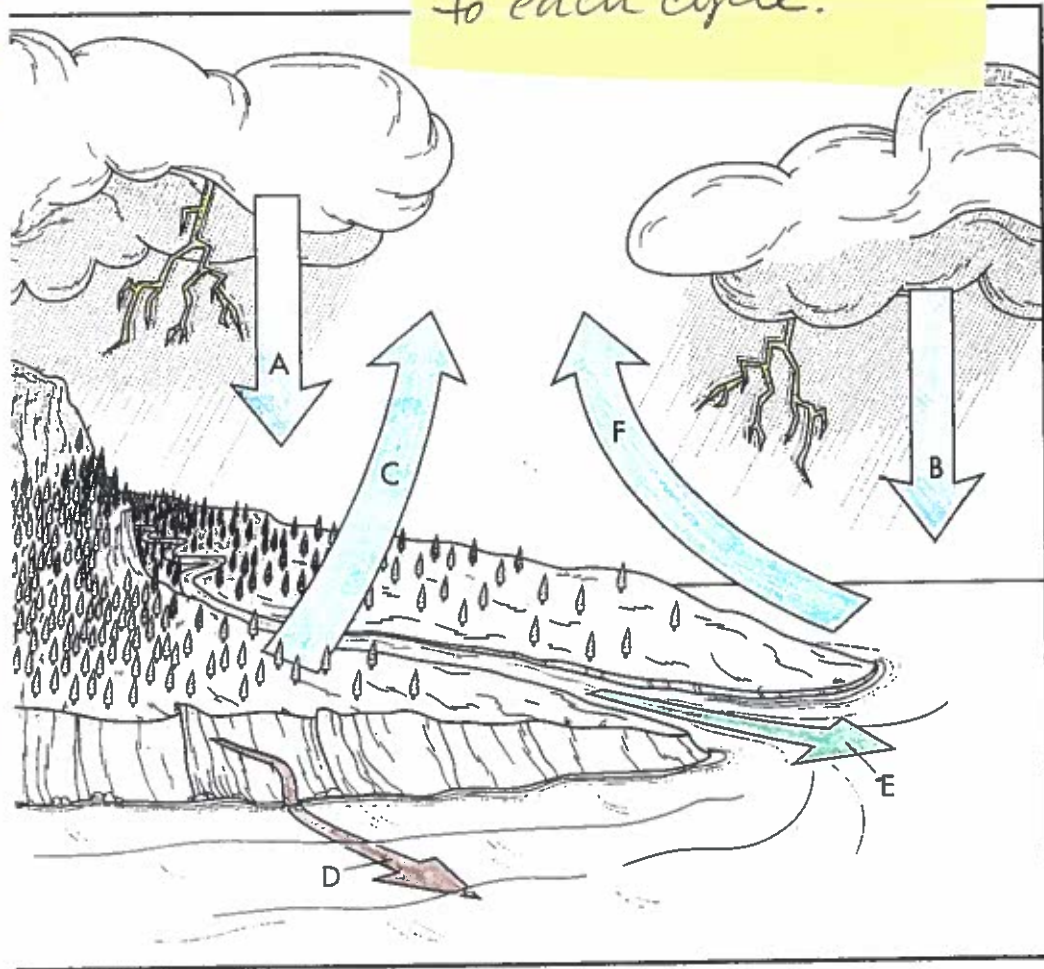
Defenses

- mimicry
- chemical defense
- poison
- camouflage
- teeth : claws

The WATER CYCLE

17 Sept 2013

Use the picture? info given to create a list of biotic components and abiotic components to each cycle.

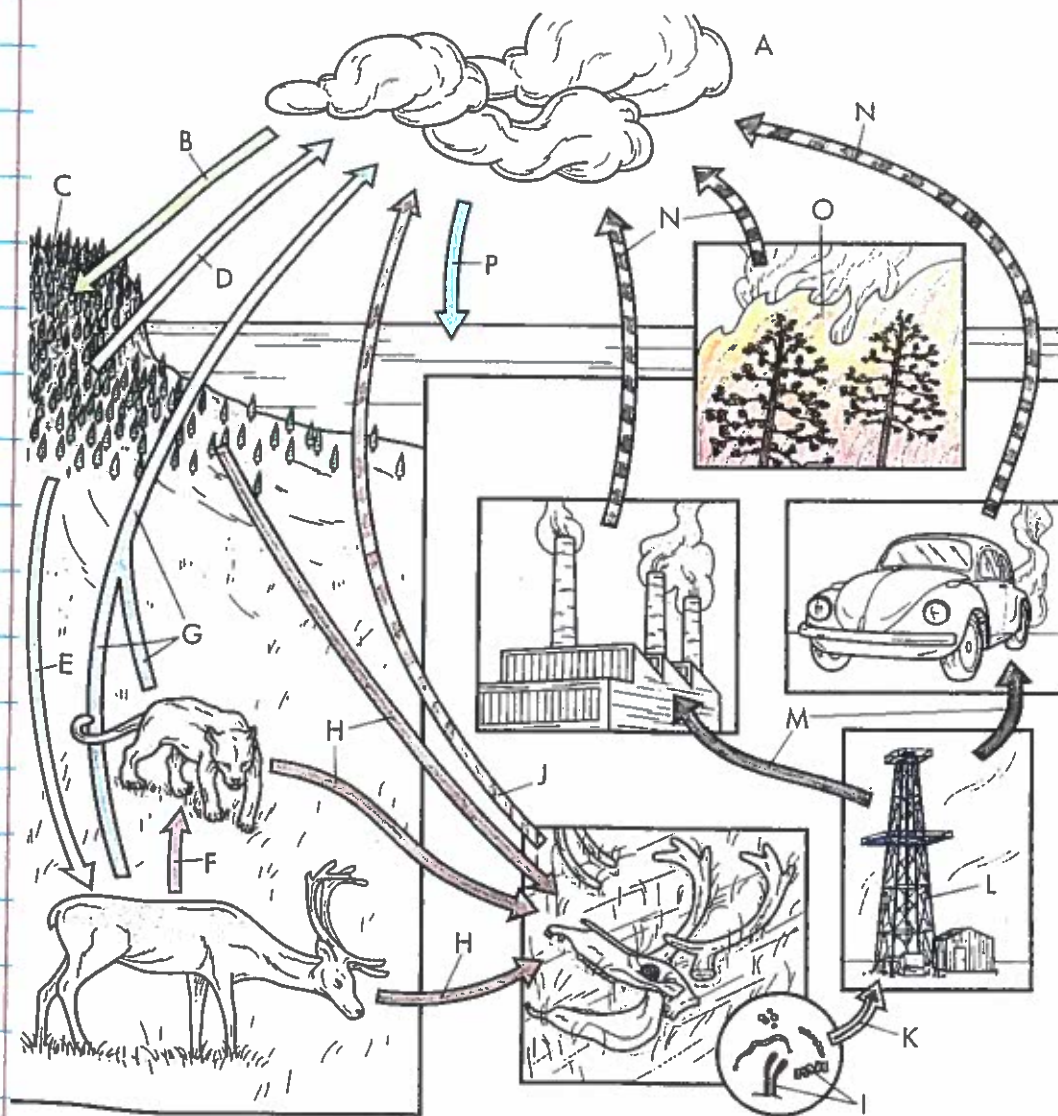


The Water Cycle

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ● Precipitation Over Land.....A | ● TranspirationC | ● Runoff From SurfaceE |
| ● Precipitation Over Ocean.....B | ● Seepage From GroundD | ● Evaporation from OceanF |

The CARBON CYCLE

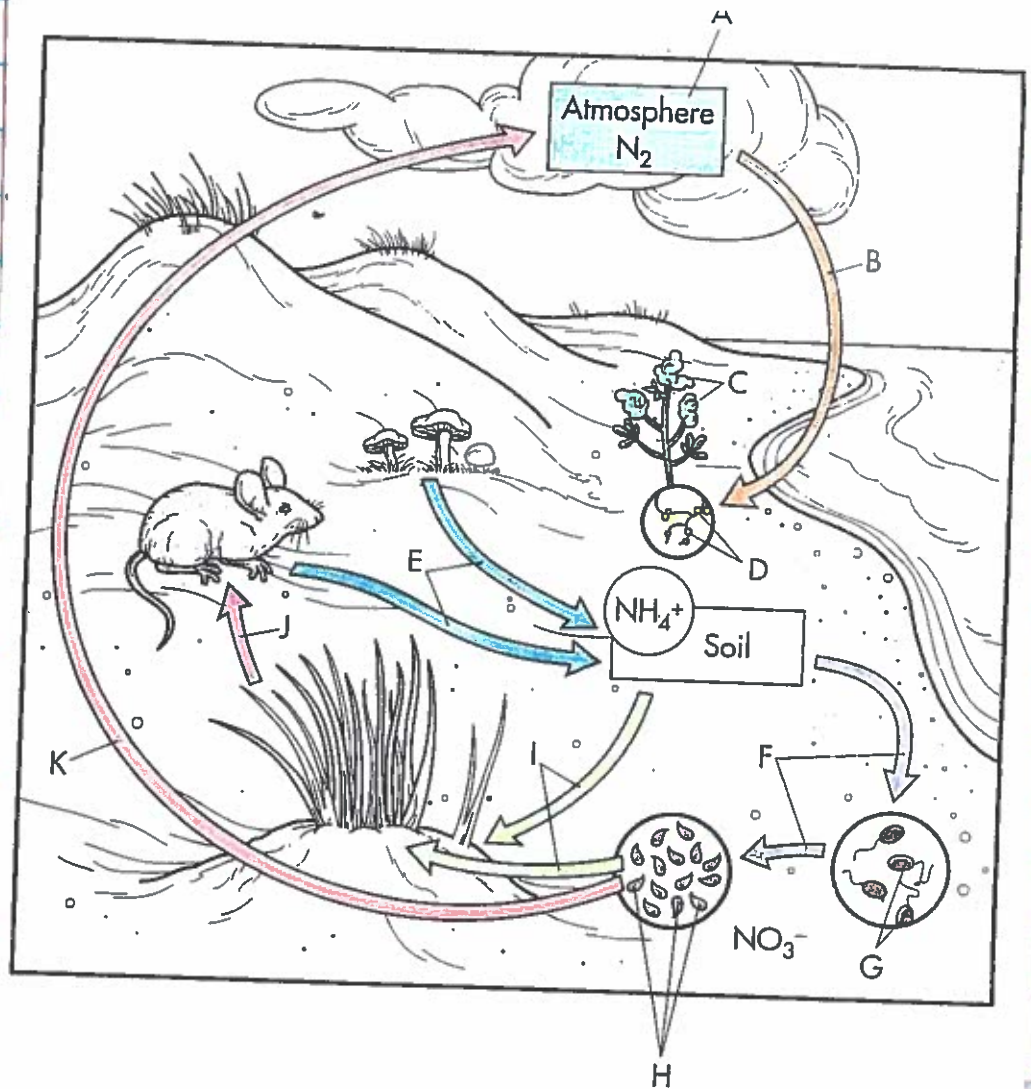
17 Sept 2013



- The Carbon Cycle**
- AtmosphereA
 - PhotosynthesisB
 - ForestC
 - Respiration in Plants..D
 - Plant Consumption.....E
 - Animal ConsumptionF
 - Respiration in Animals.....G
 - Decay.....H
 - Detritus FeedersI
 - Respiration in Detritus Feeders.....J
 - Conversion to Fossil FuelK
 - Fossil Fuel ProcessingL
 - Uses for Fossil Fuel ..M
 - Products of CombustionN
 - Forest Fire.....O
 - Exchange with Oceans ..P

The NITROGEN CYCLE

18 Sept 2013

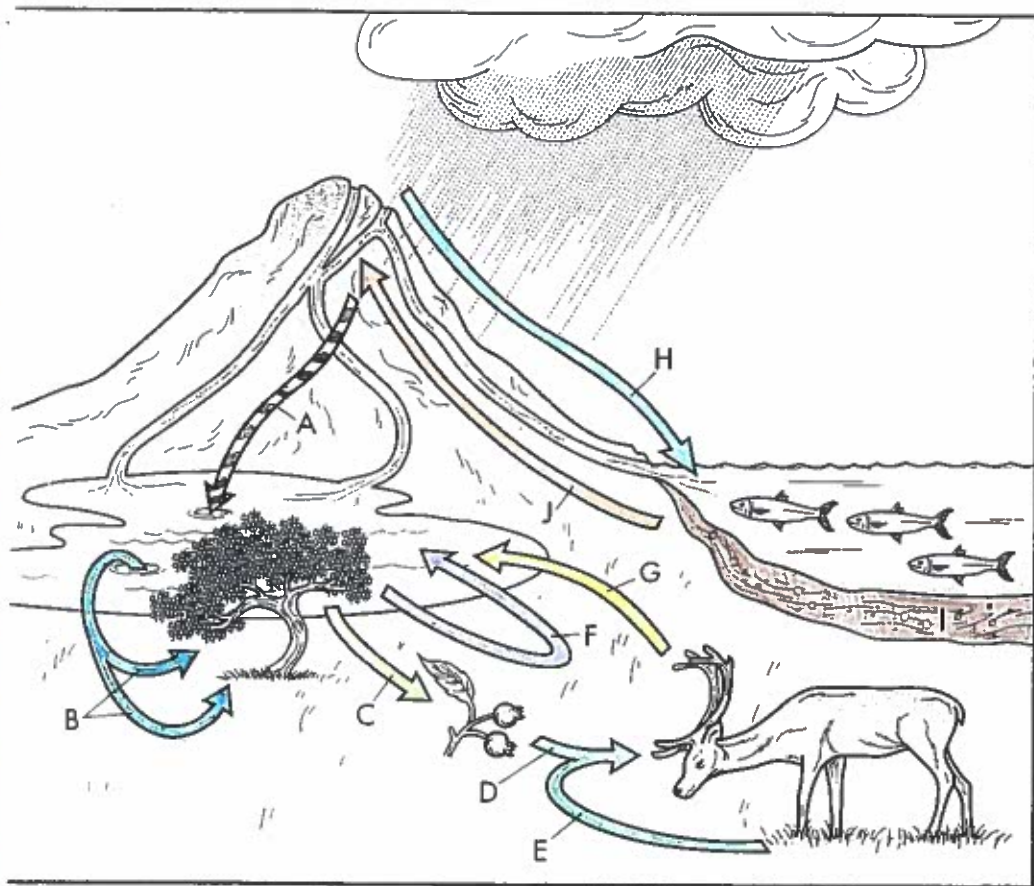


- The Nitrogen Cycle**
- AtmosphereA
 - Nitrogen Fixation.....B
 - Legume PlantC
 - Nitrogen-Fixing BacteriaD

- AmmonificationE
- Nitrification.....F
- NitrosomonasG
- Nitrobacter.....H

- Consumption by PlantsI
- Consumption by Animals.....J
- Denitrification.....K

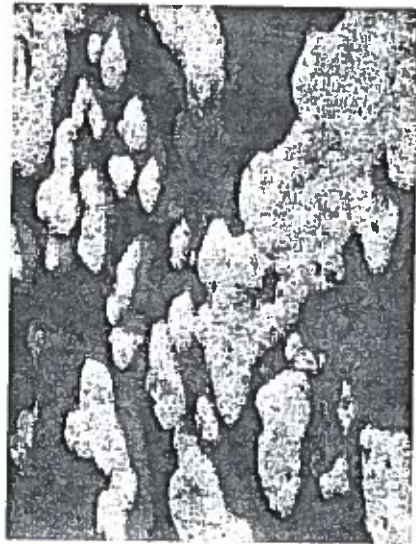
The PHOSPHORUS CYCLE



The Phosphorus Cycle

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| ● Erosion from RockA | ● Plant ConsumptionD | ● Animal Waste.....G |
| ● Absorption by Plants ..B | ● GrazingE | ● Runoff to OceanH |
| ● Concentration in Plant TissuesC | ● Plant WasteF | ● Marine SedimentI |
| | | ● Geologic UpthrustJ |

Studying an Algal Bloom



Objectives: Investigate how algae are affected by common pollutants, determine how common pollutants contribute to environmental problems, analyze the effect of different concentrations of common pollutants on the growth of algae.

Purpose: You are a naturalist specializing in aquatic ecosystems for the state park service. During your annual visit, you realize that the state's largest lake is covered by a thick, green scum. Plants and fish in the lake are dying. You suspect that runoff containing pollutants such as fertilizers from a nearby housing development may be contributing to increased algae growth in the lake. To test your hypothesis, you decide to test the effects of two common pollutants, nitrate and phosphate, on the rate of algal growth.

Background: Lakes and ponds undergo a natural succession. When a lake is young and deep, there are fewer aquatic organisms because the nutrients they require are scarce. Over time, runoff into the lakes brings nutrients needed to sustain phytoplankton and other primary producers. This allows an increase in population at all levels of the food web and in the overall biomass of the lake.

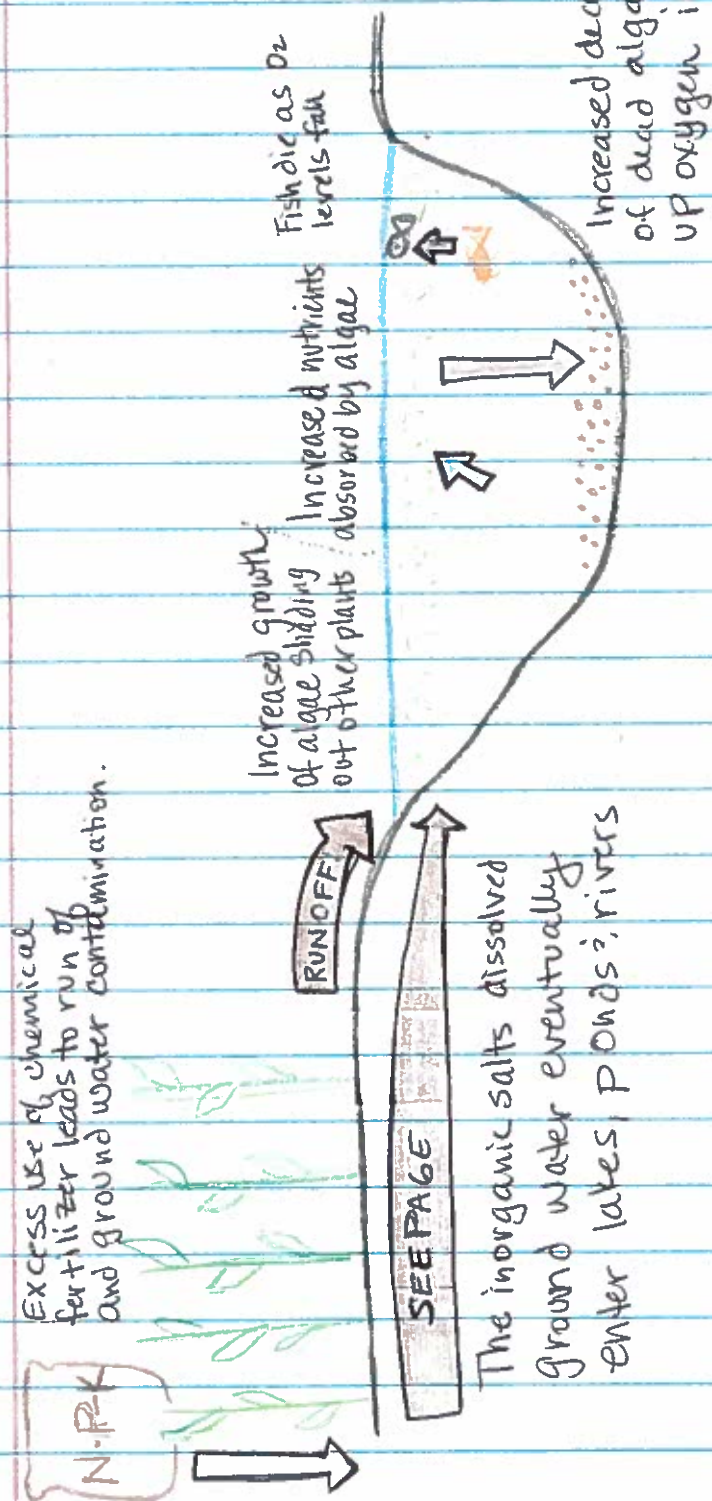
An algal bloom is a sudden massive growth of algae. At first, you may think this rapid growth of algae is

EUTROPHICATION

tion
s
water.

EUTROPHICATION

19 September 2013



impact, runoff into lakes and ponds can have devastating effects. Runoff transports nitrogen and phosphorus used for fertilization into the surrounding bodies of water. Under some conditions, fecal material from animals raised on farms also adds to the nitrate and phosphate totals.

Forums: Biochemical Cycles

Duckweed, Elodea, and Algae: Why Are They Important?

Why should you add duckweed, elodea, and algae to your aquarium? Each is special in its own way. Water plants, like elodea and duckweed, are beautiful to look at. Algae and water plants help keep a healthy exchange of gas in the water. They also provide food and shelter for many animals. What other reasons can you think of for adding these organisms to your aquarium?

Not Just Beautiful to Look At

Aquatic organisms such as duckweed, elodea, and algae add a special kind of beauty to our world. Some have bright colors and unusual shapes. Others sway with the gentle motion of the water's current.

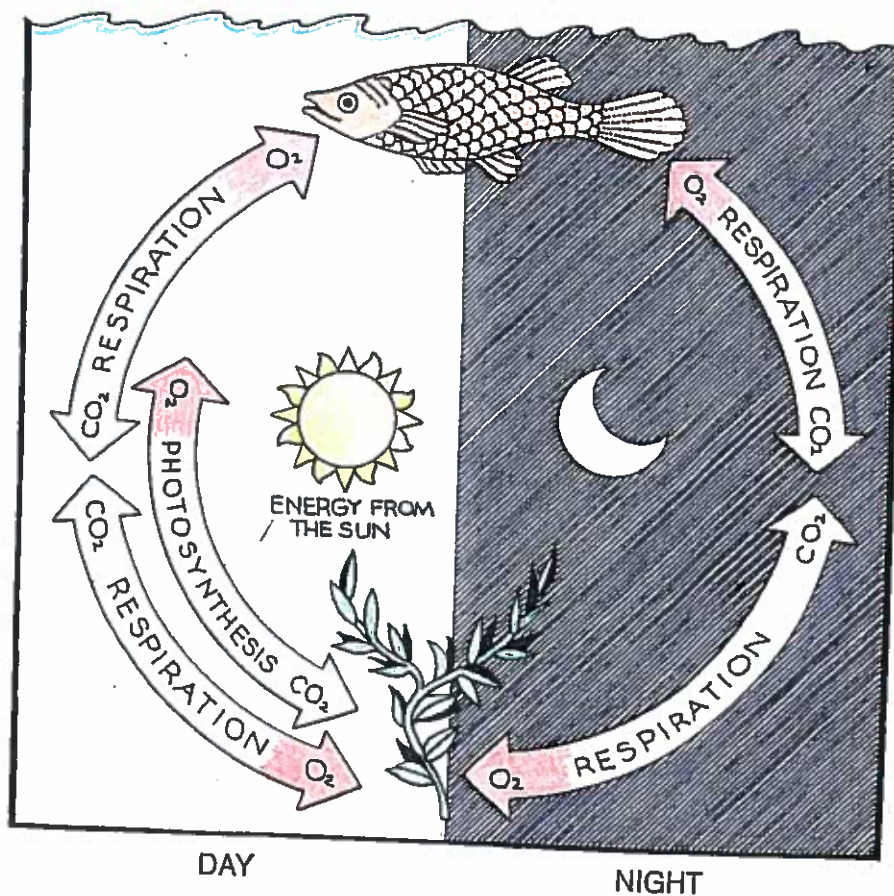
These producers are especially important in a pond or slow-moving stream. This is because they help provide oxygen for animals in the water. How? By taking in one gas (carbon dioxide, or CO_2) and giving off another (oxygen or O_2).

Some aquatic organisms provide homes and protection for tinier organisms and baby animals. These creatures nestle in the leaves and stems of underwater plants where they can live safely.

Why Swap Gases?

Animals, plants, and other living things, such as algae and bacteria, are always using

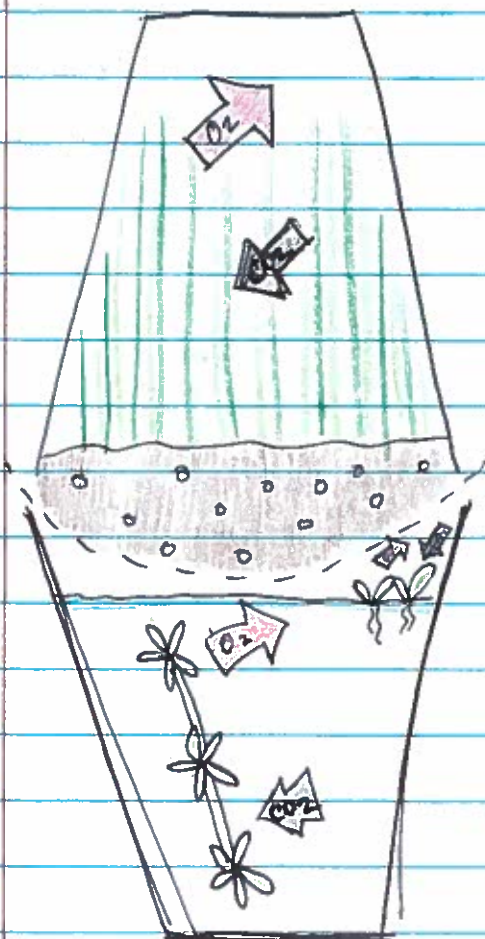
oxygen. This is called **respiration**. Respiration helps organisms get energy. In the daylight, organisms that have chlorophyll, such as plants, algae, and some bacteria, can use the sun's energy, water, and carbon dioxide to make their own food. We call this **photosynthesis**. Through photosynthesis, these organisms release much more oxygen than they take in. In the water, animals such as fish, snails, and tadpoles use the oxygen to breathe.



Oxygen-carbon dioxide cycle

Ecocolumns: Biogeochemical Cycles

20 Sept 2013

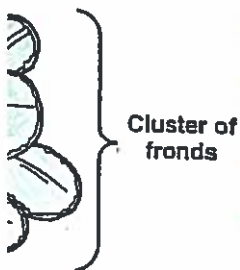


er organisms
als, such as t
re known as
nsume, water
ose you will fi

f these produ

yellow-green. It
t has no leaves
of one to three
e center. From
s. Use your hand
i plant up close.

1 View



. It almost never
es duckweed
orm new fronds.
t and then
. In nature we
frond of
stay in groups
produced. (That
ilt for you to
plants when

Process by which organisms use oxygen:

Respiration

Process by which plants make their own food:

Photosynthesis

Organisms that make their own food are:

Producers

Organisms that eat other food:

Consumers

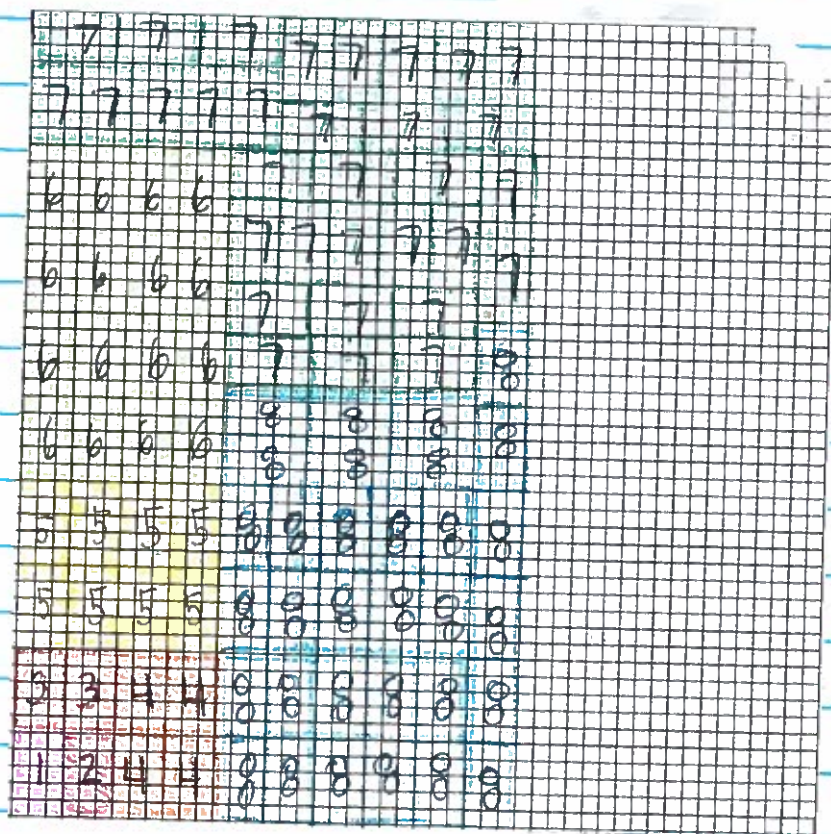
How can duckweed change water chemistry?

24 Sept 2013

Pond: 48×48 grid

Lily pad: 3×5

- Each day double the # of lily pads.
- Double until half the pond is full.



Repeat, but count # of lily pads each generation.

<u>Generation</u>	<u># New Lily pads</u>	<u># of L.P. in pop</u>
-------------------	------------------------	-------------------------

Make a graph

Population

Is it linear?

generations

<u>Generation (days)</u>	<u>new</u>	<u>total</u>
1	1	1
2	1	2
3	2	4
4	4	8
5	8	16
6	16	32
7	32	64
8	64	128

1. How many lily pads to fill half the pond?
2. How many days ~~to~~ before half the pond is filled?
3. How many more until the pond is full?

What is reproductive rate?

What is the carrying capacity for lily pads in the pond?

What resources are limited?

Systems

26 Sept 2013

Science System

System - set of individual objects that interact to influence each other to perform a task or function

Lorax: Emphasize ecological consequences

Examples of Systems

1. Cell
2. Oxygen/CO₂/water/N/P cycles
3. Classification of organisms
4. Rock cycle
5. Weather? Climate
6. Solar system
7. Simple Machines
8. Electrical systems? Circuits
9. Energy
10. Tech

1. Read story
2. Create concept map summarizing the story & its message
3. Discuss story from different points of view (Once-ler, Lorax, Barba loots)

SUCCESSION

30 Sept 2013

Succession - regrowth of an area

2 Types

Primary succession - developing of a community that has not supported life previously

ie. rock, sand dunes, volcanic eruption

Secondary succession - sequential replacement of species that follow disruption of a community.

↳ fires, landslides, hurricanes, floods

"Pioneer Species" - first species early in the community.

Characteristics of pioneer species?

ENVIRONMENT

• thin, low quality soil

Sand → grasses

saltwater → algae

• sea grasses

fresh water → algae, mosses, grass

deforested land → birch trees, raspberry, heath

↳ usually plants w/ long roots, root nodes w/ N_2 fixing bacteria

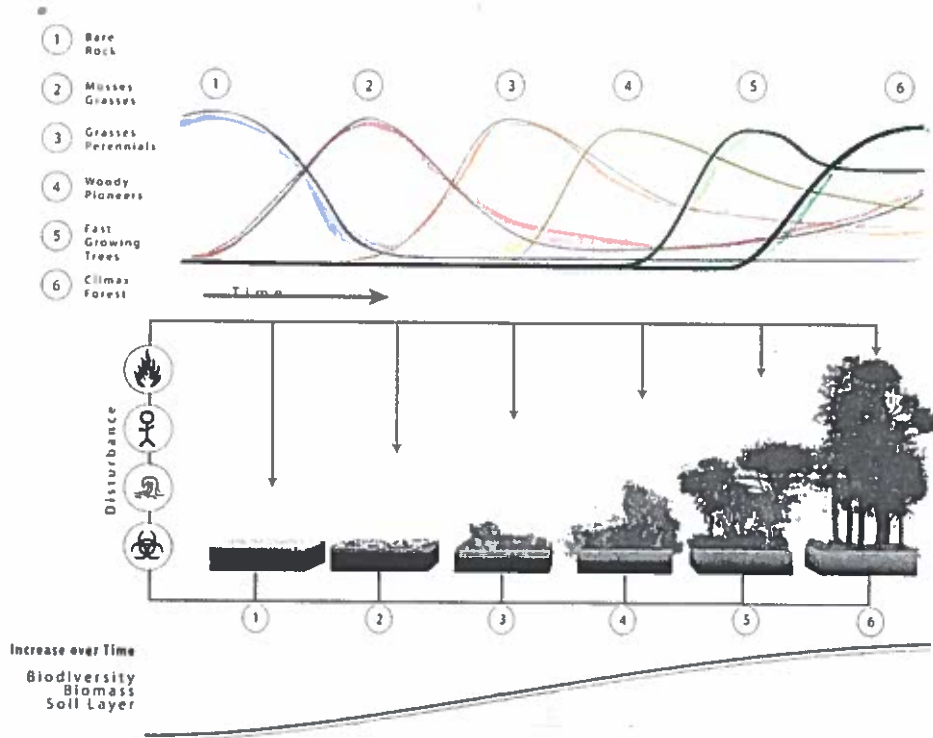


• make new soil

• provide nutrients for small fish : aquatic plants

30 Sept 2013

Forest Succession Over Time In Six Stages



text p5406

Stage

- 1 Bare Rock
- 2 Mosses/Grasses
- 3 Grasses/Perennials
- 4 Woody Pioneers
- 5 Fast growing trees
- 6 Climax Forest

Place to grow

Colonizerock: make soil more organic matter

↓ Larger plants grow as soil thickens and becomes nutrient rich.

Wolves in Yellowstone

7 Oct 2013

What factors are needed to insure resilience in an ecosystem?

Can you model an ecosystem in equilibrium and argue the challenges of disequilibrium w/in an ecosystem?

Aspen → Elk → Wolves

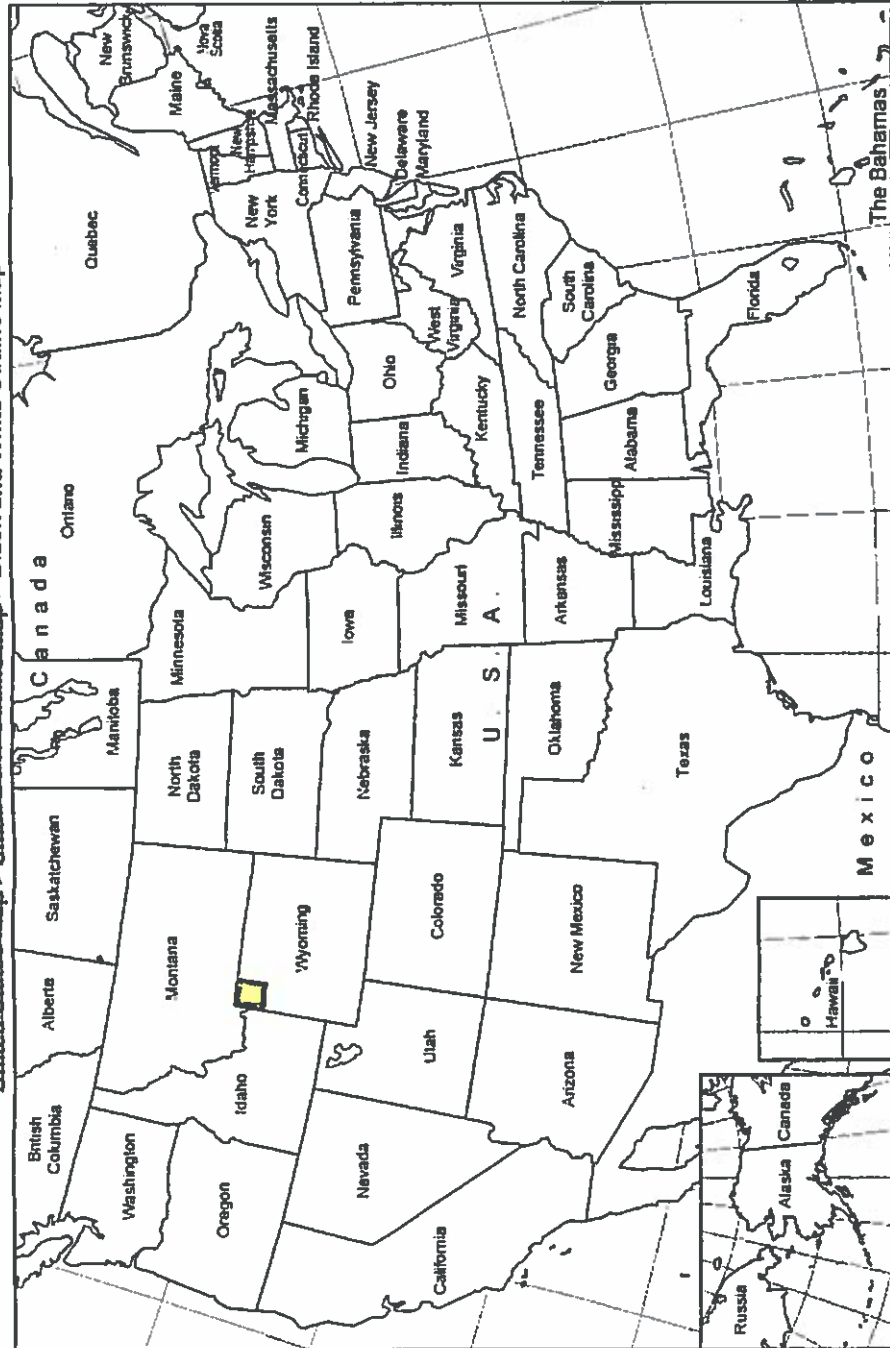
	Wolves	Elk	Aspen
Wolves	mate	wolves eat elk	wolves keep elk from eating all trees
Elk	wolves eat elk	mate	elk eat young aspen
Aspen	wolves keep elk from eating young aspen	elk eat young aspen	pollinate

3 468 mi²

2,221,766 acres

Yellowstone's Place in the US

United States Map > Small B&W Outline Map > Black and White Outline Map



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Keystone Species

8 Oct

A Keystone Species has a disproportionately large effect on its environment.

Animals

Wolf

Elk

Bison

Beavers

Plants

Aspen

Cottonwood

Willows

'Streamside Plants'

*w/ no wolves

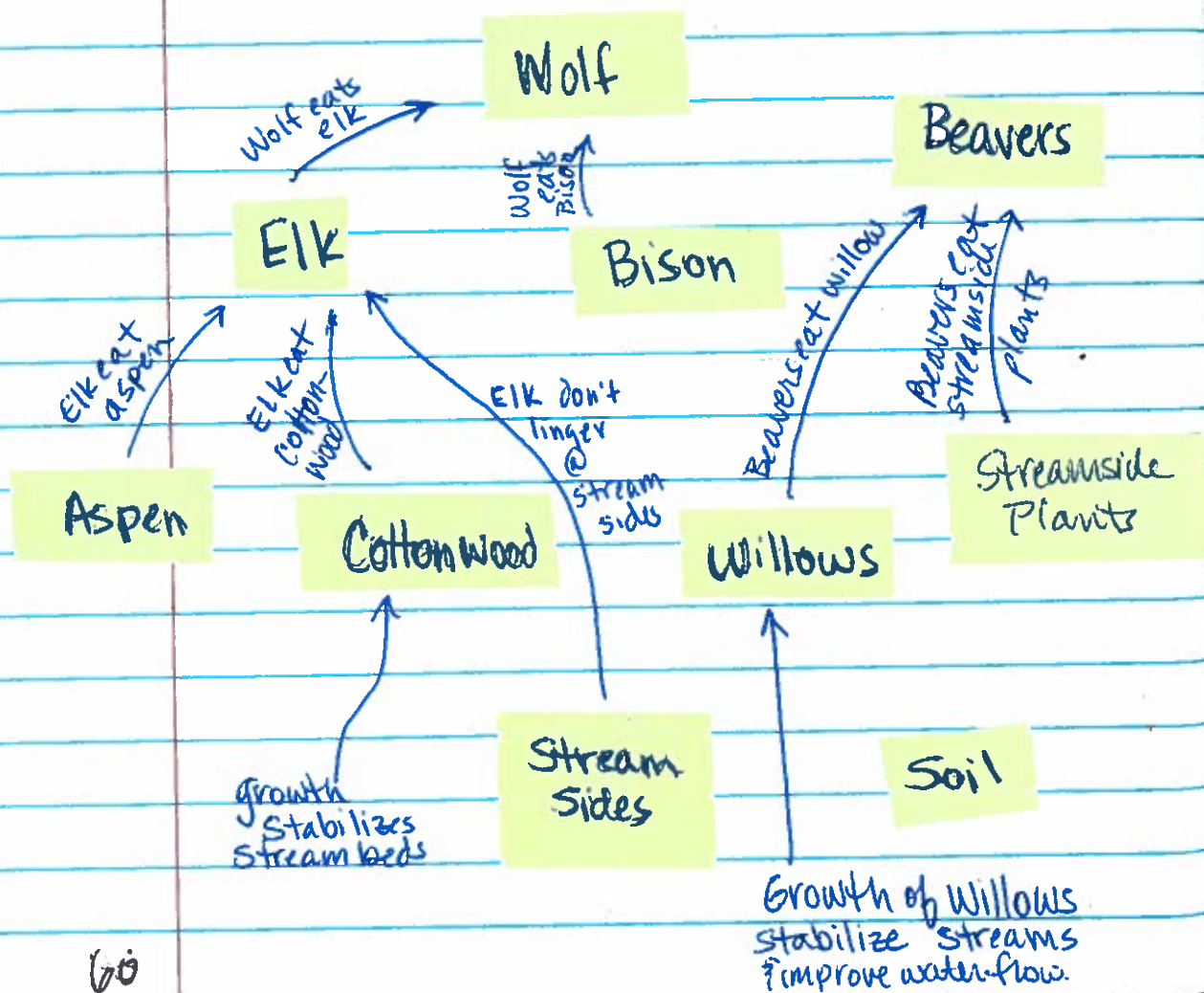
there are too many

herbivores (elk, bison)

and too few plants

w/o plants, stream

eroded.



Before & After Wolves

Restoring wolves to Yellowstone after a 70-year absence as a top predator—especially of elk—set off a cascade of changes that is restoring the park's habitat as well.

YELLOWSTONE WITHOUT WOLVES 1926-1995

ELK overbrowsed the stream side willows, cottonwoods, and shrubs that prevent erosion. Birds lost nesting space. Habitat for fish and other aquatic species declined as waters became broader and shallower and, without shade from streamside vegetation, warmer.

ASPEN trees in Yellowstone's northern valleys, where elk winter, were seldom able to reach full height. Elk ate nearly all the new sprouts.

COYOTE numbers climbed. Though they often kill calves, they prey mainly on small mammals like ground squirrels and voles, reducing the food available for foxes, badgers, and raptors.

ART BY FERNANDO G. BAPTISTA, MS STUDENT
ANIMATED BY KIMBERLY L. BAPTISTA AND
SOURCES: ROBERT L. BAPTISTA AND
WILLIAM J. PETERSON, COLESLAKE MOUNTAIN
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK



YELLOWSTONE WITH WOLVES 1995-PRESENT

ELK population has been halved. Severe winters early in the reintroduction and drought contributed to the decline. A healthy fear of wolves also keeps elk from lingering at streamside, where it can be harder to escape attack.

ASPENS The number of new sprouts eaten by elk has dropped dramatically. New groves in some areas now reach 10 to 15 feet tall.

COYOTES Wolf predation has reduced their numbers. Fewer coyote attacks may be a factor in the resurgence of the park's pronghorn.

WILLOWS, cottonwoods, and other riparian vegetation have begun to stabilize stream banks, helping restore natural water flow. Overhanging branches again shade the water and welcome birds.

BEAVER colonies in north Yellowstone have risen from one to 12, now that some stream banks are lush with vegetation, especially willows (a key beaver food). Beaver dams create ponds and marshes, supporting fish, amphibians, birds, small mammals, and a rich insect population to feed them.

CARRION Wolves don't cover their kill, so they've boosted the food supply for scavengers, notably bald eagles, golden eagles, coyotes, ravens, magpies, and bears.



Can you model an
ecosystem in equilibrium
and argue
challenges
equilibrium
system?

The two Oregon State Researchers had no special interest in wolves when they first visited Yellowstone. Rather, they were puzzled by the relative absence of two tree species they figured should be there in abundance. For William Ripple and his student Eric Larson, it was aspen. For Robert Beschta, it was cottonwood.

Beschta was also stumped by the Lamar River. It cuts a wide valley across Yellowstone's northern range, and had spread its smooth plains across the valley floor over many centuries. Willows, cottonwoods, and other streamside plants should have been flourishing, holding the ground in place. But, the plants were sparse, and the river had started carving the soil away.

When he examined cottonwoods along the Lamar in 2001, he found a strange pattern. Hundreds of older trees measured more than a foot around. But there were almost no midsize, middle-age trees. Whatever new cottonwoods had sprouted since the 1920s, few had survived. From the 1960s on, almost none had made it.

The timing was striking. The 1920s, the same time new cottonwoods and aspens stopped surviving, was when the last of Yellowstone's native wolves were killed off. "That was kind of our 'Aha' moment", Ripple said.

Most scientists and managers before 1970 agreed that herds of thousands of elk and hundreds of bison were overgrazing the range, wiping out aspen and streamside willows.

Beavers, left with nothing to eat, declined, and barren stream sides eroded.

Make note of these definitions and questions & your responses in your science notebook (pg 60-61)

A KEYSTONE SPECIES has a disproportionately large effect on its environment.

1. What animals are mentioned in this article?
2. What plants are mentioned?
3. Create a graphic organizer that shows the interactions between the animals and wolves. Include the plants' interactions with animals and briefly describe how the presence or absence of wolves can impact the plant life.
4. The community of Yellowstone National Park also includes its special geology and landscape. How was the landscape impacted when wolves were removed from the park?

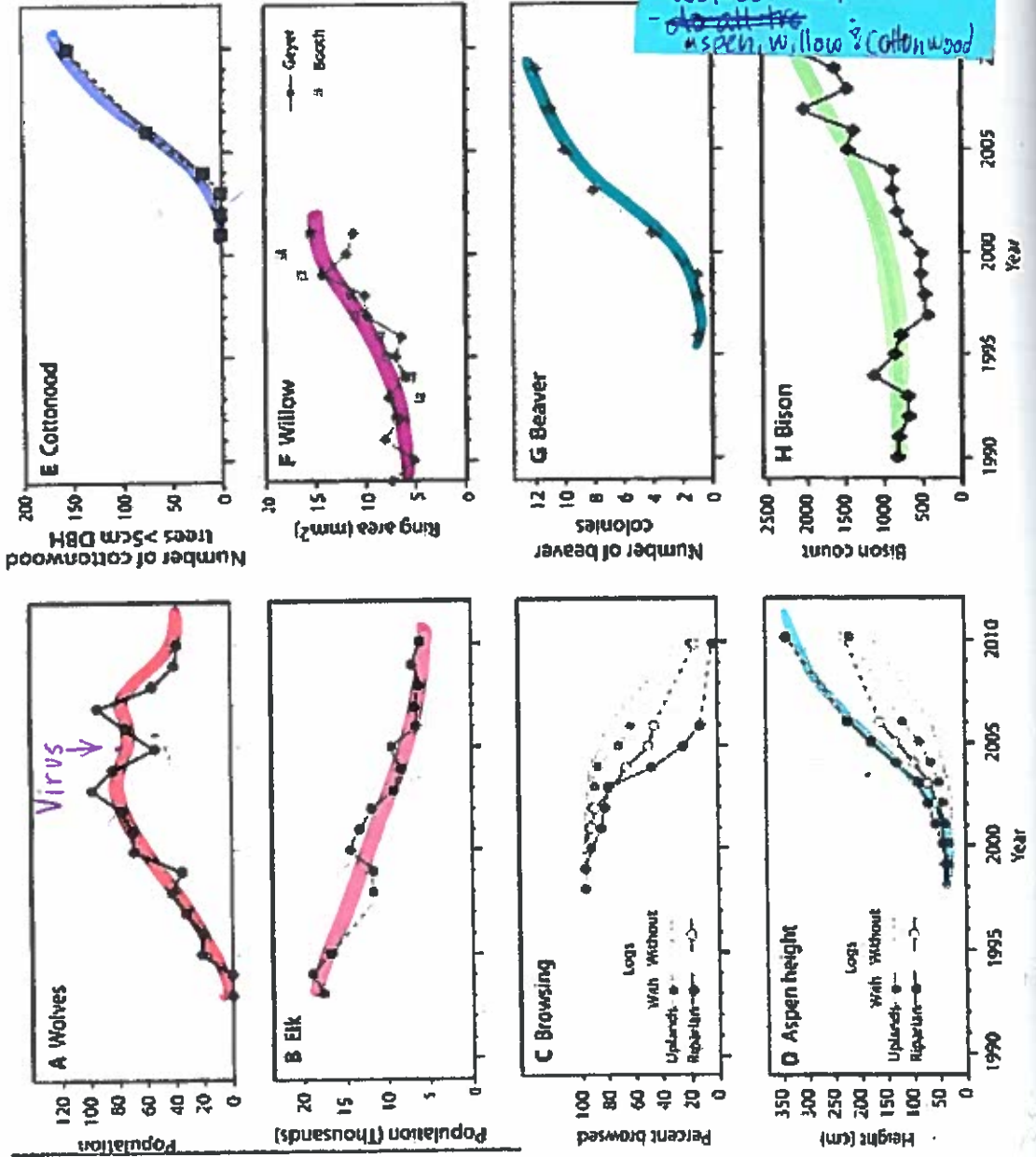
Dr. O'Malley will look for this work in your notebook during the next notebook check! Trim the article and "before and after" page and include them in your notebook.

Yellowstone Population Data

9 Oct 2013

Yellowstone Populations

W.J. Ripple, R.L. Baer/ Biological Conservation 2008 (2011) 2008-2008



Yellowstone Population Analysis

9 Oct. 2013

Describe:

How elk populations change as wolf populations change.

As wolf populations increase from 1995 to 2010, elk populations decrease.

How beaver populations change as wolf populations change.

As wolf population increase from 1995-2010, beaver populations increase.

How all 3 tree populations change as wolf? elk populations change. Explain

Aspen, cottonwood, willow trees all increase as wolves increase and elk increase. This is probably because as wolves decrease (by eating) the elk, there are fewer elk eating young trees.

Did the decline in wolf populations starting in 2005 affect the other trends? Explain.

1st Wolf population declined in 2005 because of a virus. There was not a (significant) change in the other animal or plant populations trends after 2005.

Rewilding
10 Oct.

NPR Podcast

Wolves arrived → also ate coyotes
Elk avoided valleys?

Elk left gorges → those areas grew
in trees

Trees grew → birds returned

Beavers built dams → beavers moved in
diversity in aquatic
environment increased

Berries on shrubs → Bears moved in
fewer coyotes → more rabbits ∴ more hares

~~stratified~~ plants → changed the course
secured banks of waterways

Gaia Hypothesis

Rewilding - bringing back plants? Animal s
- bring back keystone species?
watch what happens

Megafauna

Do you agree w/ the idea of
REWILDING?

- Use facts & evidence

SELF - REFLECTION

