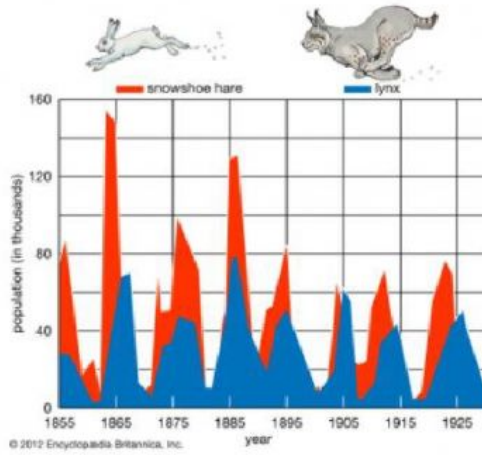


Phenomena



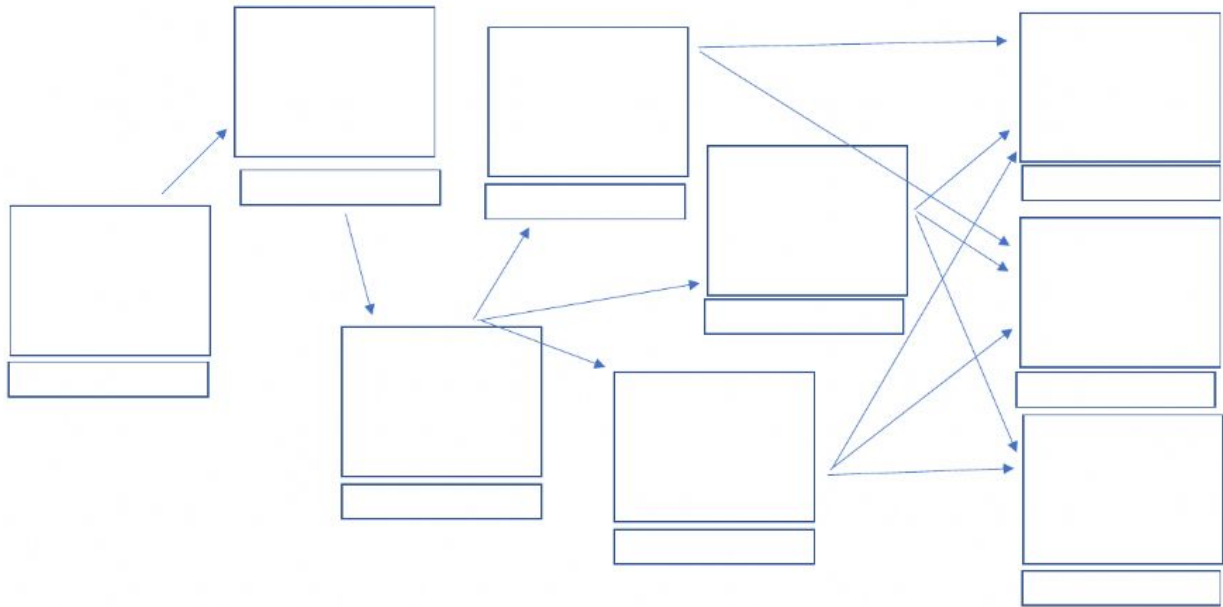
Write your best idea to the question here:

Question: How do population levels change?

Word	Definition	Example Sentence	Picture
omnivore			
consumer			
herbivore			
carnivore			
food chain			
decomposer			
producer			
food web			
energy pyramid			

Food Webs Activity

Directions: Arrange the organisms below into the correct order to create another food web. Then, label each organism as either a producer, primary consumer or secondary consumer. Once done, write how you think the two other scenarios at the end of this food web would affect the organisms in the food web.





Scenario 1: A severe drought occurs and lasts for multiple consecutive years. How do you think this would affect the food web above?

Scenario 2: A tourist attraction of exotic non-native species is built in the area. The company goes out of business and releases all of the animals into the local environment. This introduces a new top-level consumer to the environment. How do you think this would affect the food web above?

Directions: Read each interaction scenario. Infer what will occur with the populations and the ecosystem as a result of the relationships. Explain what will need to happen to maintain/restore balance to the ecosystem.

Scenario One:

The gray wolf at one point almost caused the extinction of a certain species of rabbits in the Northwest. The initial abundance of rabbits allowed the gray wolves to hunt easily and eat many rabbits. Eventually the rabbit population began to decrease, resulting in a change in the wolf population.

Infer what will occur:

Explain what will need to occur to maintain the balance of the ecosystem:

Scenario Two:

The deer that live up on the higher plateaus in Colorado and New Mexico migrated to those areas due to a lack of food in their original locations. They found an abundance of food resources and fewer predators among the highland grasses. The population continued to survive until the late 19th century, at which point a change in the population occurred.

Infer what occurred:

Explain what needed to occur to maintain the balance or restore balance to the ecosystem.

Scenario Three:

The increasing population of lionfish is becoming a problem along the Florida Straits as the lionfish continue to eat and reproduce. Sharks are also highly populated in this area, though not always in the same areas as the lionfish. Scientists are seeking a possible solution to the lionfish population problem that already occurs naturally.

Infer what will occur:

Explain what will need to happen to restore balance to the ecosystem:

Scenario Four:

A grassland ecosystem was comfortably sustaining a healthy population of prairie dogs and brown foxes. A nearby forest fire caused the smaller red wolf to migrate into the population.

Infer what will occur:

Explain what will need to occur to maintain the balance or restore balance to the ecosystem: