

Moose on the Move

By ReadWorks.org

Helicopters bring Utah's moose to their new home in Colorado.

It's a bird! It's a plane! Wait...it's a moose! Wildlife workers moved 24 moose from Utah to their new home in Colorado in 2007. The moose traveled part of the way hanging from helicopters. The helicopters safely transported, or moved, the animals to trucks for a six-hour drive.

More than 90 moose were brought to Grand Mesa, Colorado that way by the end of the 2000s. The idea for the project began when a Colorado man thought of bringing moose to Grand Mesa for the first time. "There was a big meadow full of willows, and it looked like there should be a moose standing there," Roger Shenkel told WR News. Shenkel shared his idea with officials at the Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW).

The DOW spent years studying Grand Mesa's habitat. A habitat is the place where an animal or a plant naturally lives. When officials decided that the area was suitable for moose, the DOW workers set out to find some of the animals to live there.

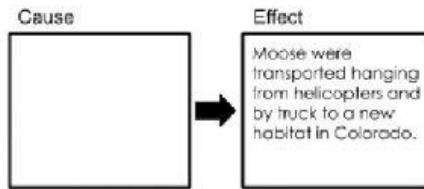
Fair Trade

Utah needed more bighorn sheep, because their numbers had dropped. In exchange, or trade, for the 24 moose, Colorado sent 20 bighorn sheep to Utah. "Here in northern Utah, we have too many moose," Justin Dolling of the Utah DOW told WR News. "We made a trade."

Animal Swap

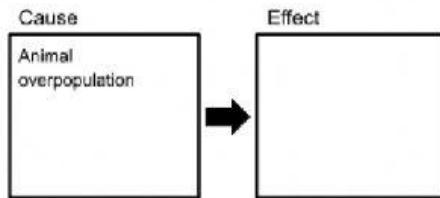
Animal overpopulation can be a big problem. That happens when too many animals live in one area. Those animals can run out of food. Wildlife officials help solve the problem by moving animals to areas where they can find enough food.

1. Complete the chart.



- A. Too many moose were in Utah
- B. Too many bighorn sheep were in Utah
- C. The moose had too much food.
- D. The number of moose in Utah dropped.

2. Complete the chart.



- A. easy to find food
- B. food runs out
- C. animals are healthy
- D. good for the environment

Paradise Lost?

By ReadWorks.org

The Amazon rain forest is disappearing at an alarming rate.

The Amazon's future is grim. Farmers are rapidly destroying this lush landscape. Deforestation has been a huge problem in the Amazon since the 1960s. Deforestation occurs when farmers and loggers cut down trees to make room for farms, homes, and roads. Until recently, scientists thought the rain forest was losing about 5,800 square miles a year. However, using the latest satellite technology, researchers have discovered that the Amazon is shrinking at about twice that rate.

Cause for Concern

Why should we worry about a rain forest that is thousands of miles from where we live? Deforestation reduces the rain forest's biodiversity, or the variety of plants and animals in a particular area. The Amazon is one of the richest areas of the world in animal and plant diversity.

Scientists estimate that they have identified only a small number of all species that live in the rain forest. As loggers and farmers destroy the forest, animals and plants may become extinct before they are discovered. Deforestation affects people too. Many of the foods, spices, and medicines we need come from the rain forest.

The Amazon is often called the "lungs of the world." Its trees clean the air by taking in carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen. Too much carbon dioxide in the air is harmful to humans. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas. Greenhouse gases trap the sun's heat close to Earth. Without the trees in the rain forest, the Earth's climate would become much hotter.

Fixing the Problem

Stopping the destruction of the rain forest is not an easy task. Brazil's government created two national parks in the Amazon rain forest. The government's efforts placed 3.7 million acres of rain forest off-limits for development. The protected area is more than twice the size of Maryland.

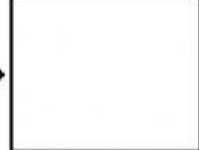
Others think that this is not enough. "The single most important factor contributing to forest loss is population growth in Brazil," scientist Jim Bowyer of the University of Michigan told Weekly Reader. "People make the forest their home. All these people need land for farming and wood for heat and cooking. They are looking for a way to survive."

1. Which does NOT complete the chart.

Cause

Trees are being cut down in the rain forest to make room for farms and people.

Effect



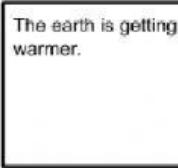
- A. reduces the number of plants and animals
- B. more carbon dioxide in the air
- C. national parks have been created
- D. more access to food and medicine

2. Complete the chart.

Cause



Effect



- A. Animal species are becoming extinct.
- B. Two national parks were created.
- C. The number of trees cleaning the air has been greatly reduced.
- D. People get food, spices, and medicine from the rain forest.

Children of the Storm

By ReadWorks.org

But just before classes began, Hurricane Katrina, one of the worst hurricanes ever to hit the United States, slammed the states on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico on August 29, 2005.

Tenisha was sad and scared as she watched heavy rains and high winds rip through her city on the Mississippi River. When New Orleans flooded, school was the last thing on Tenisha's mind as she and her family drove 350 miles west to Houston.

More than 24,000 evacuees from New Orleans moved to the Houston Astrodome, but Tenisha and her family spent five days in a hotel. Within a week, a generous Houston family had given the Dounseroux family shelter in the loft above their home. A few days later, Tenisha started school in Houston. She was one of an estimated 125,000 New Orleans children who scattered across Louisiana and neighboring states to start a new school year.

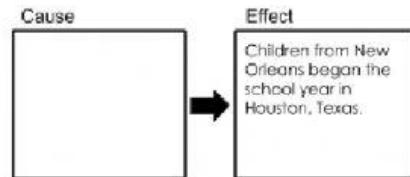
The Houston school district alone enrolled almost 2,000 students in the days following Katrina, including Tenisha and her brother Terren. The district also reopened two schools that it had closed the previous spring. Those schools were devoted entirely to children displaced by the storm.

It's hard to move and start going to a new school. It was even harder for the many children displaced from the states hit hardest by Hurricane Katrina. School guidance counselors said that relocating to an unfamiliar school is bound to affect many of the children.

Tenisha and Terren, though, were doing well. They had enrolled at MacGregor Music and Science Magnet School. MacGregor accepted more than a dozen displaced students. Many of Tenisha's and Terren's classmates embraced the new arrivals. "We want to make our new classmates feel good because we know they've gone through so much," James McKethen, a fourth grader at MacGregor, told Senior Edition.

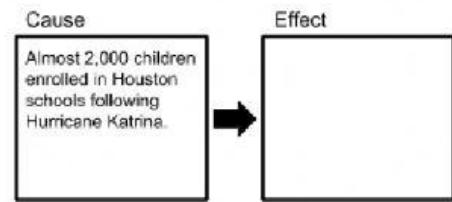
Terren missed playing basketball with his friends in New Orleans. Tenisha missed the teachers and students at her old school. But the family said they would most likely settle down in Texas for good. "I want to stay in Houston," Tenisha told Senior Edition.

1. Complete the chart.



- Over 24,000 people from New Orleans moved to Houston after Hurricane Katrina.
- Two schools were reopened in Houston.
- Students in Houston welcomed new students to their schools.
- Tenisha and Terrin enrolled in school in Houston.

2. Complete the chart.



- Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans on August 29, 2005.
- Two schools were reopened in Houston.
- Tenisha and Terrin left New Orleans.
- Tenisha's family drove 350 miles.

