



Ecosystem Resources and Wildlife Populations

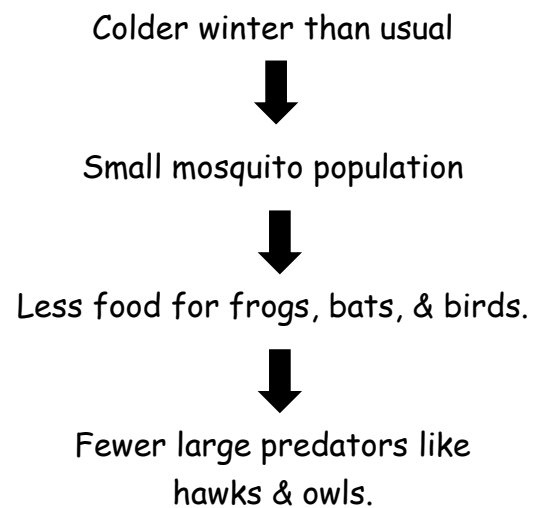
Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Caution - Be careful not to harm any wildlife or their habitats.

Your Outdoor Classroom is an ecosystem. An ecosystem includes all of the living things (biotic) in a given area, interacting with each other and also with their non-living (abiotic) environments. Some biotic factors are those living things that can cause predation and competition for food and space. Some abiotic factors include weather, soil composition, and water sources.

We know that wildlife need four basic things to survive: food, water, shelter, and a place to raise their young. But how might biotic factors like plants or other animals or abiotic factors like sunlight impact an animal's survival in its habitat? Limited resources can affect the likelihood or probability of survival for one individual animal of a specific species or an entire population, which is all of the individuals of a species within an ecosystem.

Interactions between plants, animals, and other biotic components with abiotic components of an ecosystem are endless. Everything is connected. One very simple example of these relationships is as follows:



Take a walk in your Outdoor Classroom and observe what sort of interactions are occurring. Make note of relationships between the biotic and abiotic components of your ecosystem as you answer the questions below.

- 1) What wildlife do you see? Try to determine the specific species using field identification guides if possible. Explain the evidence you used to identify the species.



