**Ch. 2 L. 3** *5-2.5 Explain how limiting factors (including food, water, space, and shelter) affect populations in ecosystems.*

**1**. **The balance of nature** ---the relationship between the numbers of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_available in an ecosystem.

**2.** **Limiting factors**---a condition or resource that keeps a

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at a certain size.

**3.** Changes in the amount of food, water, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or space will lead to changes in the size of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**4.** When the population grows too much, it may cause \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**5.** Causes of population increases:

**a**. If more plants grow, populations that eat those

plants will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**b.** If the population of prey increases, the population of predators will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ also.

**c.** If the population of predators grows, the population of prey will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**6.** Causes of population decreases:

**a.** A decrease in water could cause a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in populations that need water.

**b.** Tree loss in an area could lead to a decrease in the populations that use the trees for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**c.** If there’s not enough \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to survive, animals will have to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or die.

**Ch. 2 L. 3** *5-2.5 Explain how limiting factors (including food, water, space, and shelter) affect populations in ecosystems.*

**1**. **The balance of nature** ---the relationship between the numbers of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_available in an ecosystem.

**2.** **Limiting factors**---a condition or resource that keeps a

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at a certain size.

**3.** Changes in the amount of food, water, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or space will lead to changes in the size of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**4.** When the population grows too much, it may cause \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**5.** Causes of population increases:

**a**. If more plants grow, populations that eat those

plants will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**b.** If the population of prey increases, the population of predators will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ also.

**c.** If the population of predators grows, the population of prey will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**6.** Causes of population decreases:

**a.** A decrease in water could cause a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in populations that need water.

**b.** Tree loss in an area could lead to a decrease in the populations that use the trees for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**c.** If there’s not enough \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to survive, animals will have to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or die.

**Answer Key for Ch. 2 L. 3** *5-2.5 Explain how limiting factors (including food, water, space, and shelter) affect populations in ecosystems.*

**1**. **The balance of nature** ---the relationship between the numbers of organisms and the resources available in an ecosystem.

**2.** **Limiting factors**---a condition or resource that keeps a

population at a certain size.

**3.** Changes in the amount of food, water, shelter, or space will lead to changes in the size of the population.

**4.** When the population grows too much, it may cause overcrowding.

**5.** Causes of population increases:

**a**. If more plants grow, populations that eat those

plants will increase.

**b.** If the population of prey increases, the population of predators will increase also.

**c.** If the population of predators grows, the population of prey will decrease.

**6.** Causes of population decreases:

**a.** A decrease in water could cause a decrease in populations that need water.

**b.** Tree loss in an area could lead to a decrease in the populations that use the trees for food or shelter

**c.** If there’s not enough space to survive, animals will have to move or die.