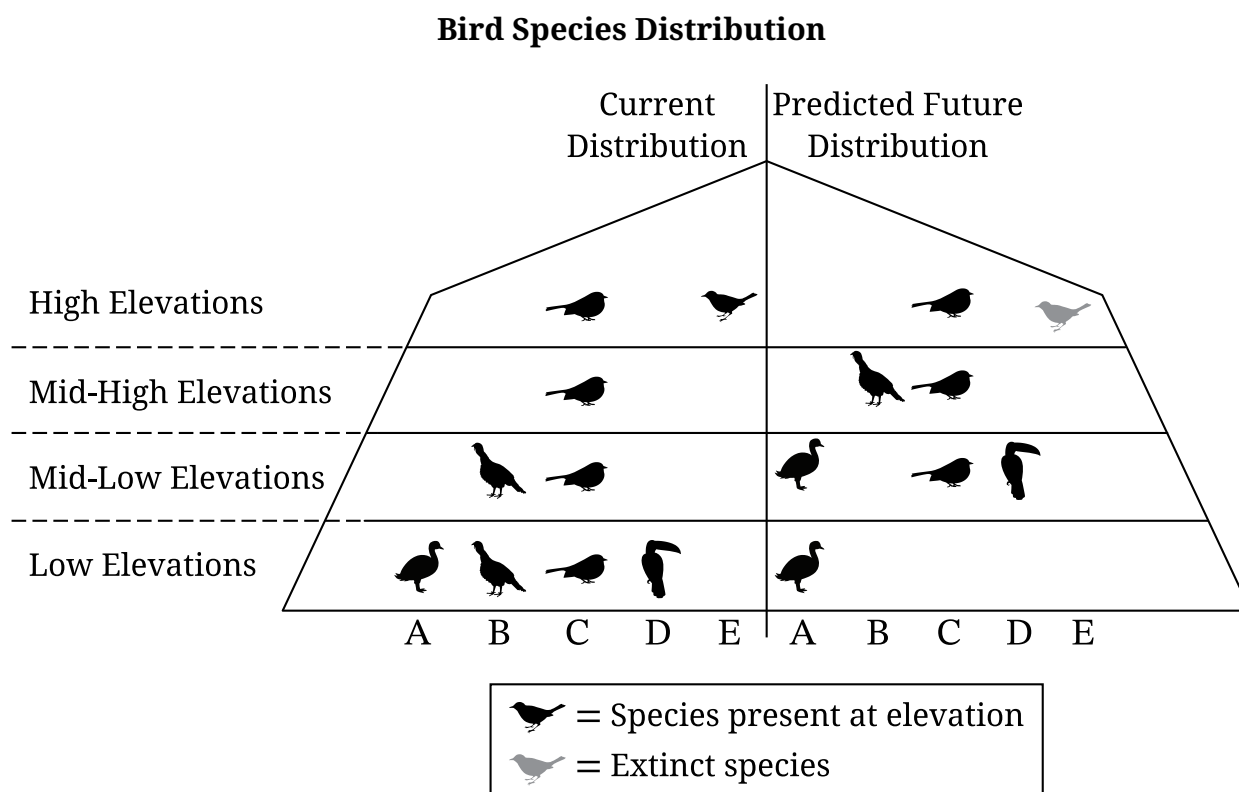


The following information applies to parts A, B, C, D, and E.

Climate change can affect both terrestrial and marine organisms. Researchers studying the effect of climate change on bird distribution mapped elevation zones at which five bird species lived within a tropical mountain range. Birds are distributed in part according to climate-related adaptations. Researchers modeled where the birds would most likely live in the future based on climate change predictions.

The results of this study are shown in the following diagram. Each unique shape in the diagram represents a different bird species, labeled A through E. Current distribution is shown on the left side of the figure, and predicted future distribution is shown on the right.

**The following information applies to parts F, G, and H.**

Some organisms such as birds can move in response to environmental changes, while other organisms such as corals cannot. Researchers studying the effect of climate change on marine organisms conducted two experiments involving photosynthetic algae that have a symbiotic relationship with corals.

In Experiment 1, the researchers placed photosynthetic algal colonies living in corals in three different saltwater tanks. The temperature of Tank 1 was set to 27°C, the average temperature at which most corals live. Water circulation in each tank mimicked natural ocean currents. After 30 days, the researchers counted the number of bleached corals. The tank setups are shown in the following list.

- Tank 1: 27°C and no sediment
- Tank 2: 32°C and no sediment
- Tank 3: 37°C and no sediment

In Experiment 2, the researchers used the same photosynthetic algae living in corals but modified the conditions of the tanks as shown in the following list. Water circulation kept the sediment in the tanks suspended. After 30 days, the researchers counted the number of bleached corals.

- Tank 1: 27°C and no sediment
 - Tank 2: 27°C and moderate sediment
 - Tank 3: 27°C and high sediment
-

1. Respond to parts A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, and J.

Part A

Based on the information in the diagram, **identify** the elevation zone that has the highest species richness for the current distribution.

Part B

Describe a climate condition at high elevations that is different than it is at low elevations.

Part C

A predator at low elevations currently feeds on Species C and D. Based on the information in the diagram, **describe** what could happen to the predator species in the future in response to the predicted changes in the prey community.

Part D

Species C is considered a generalist, while Species E is considered a specialist. **Explain** why Species C and E are predicted to respond differently to climate change.

Part E

Based on the information in the diagram, **explain** why the bird community at low elevations in the future would be less likely to recover from natural disruptions than the current low-elevation bird community.

Part F

Identify the independent variable in Experiment 1.

Part G

Identify a likely scientific question for Experiment 1.

Part H

In Experiment 2 the temperature of the tanks was held constant, while the amount of sediment was varied. **Explain** how this modification could affect the results of this experiment.

Part I

Changes in climate also affect Arctic ecosystems. One impact of climate change is the loss of ice and snow in polar regions. **Describe** a positive feedback loop that results from the loss of ice and snow in polar regions.

Part J

Describe one problem that Arctic species, such as polar bears or ringed seals, face because of warming in polar regions.

Chickadees are a K-selected species of bird that eat insects and spiders. Spiders consume insects, and many insects consume plants as shown in the following food chain.

Plants → Insects → Spiders

Chickadee habitat includes forests and residential yards. Residential yards often contain nonnative plants, which do not naturally exist in an area, but were introduced by humans.

Scientists measured the average number of insects and spiders as related to the percentage of nonnative plants (Figure 1). The scientists also measured the chickadees' average population growth rate (Figure 2) to determine the impact of nonnative plants on chickadee populations.

Figure 1. Percentage of Nonnative Plants and Average Number of Individual Spiders and Insects

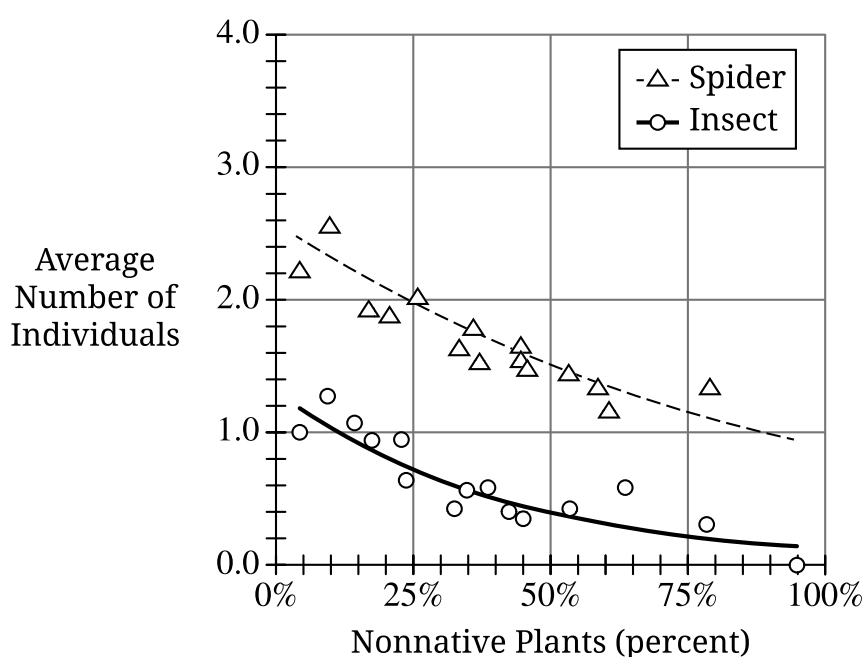
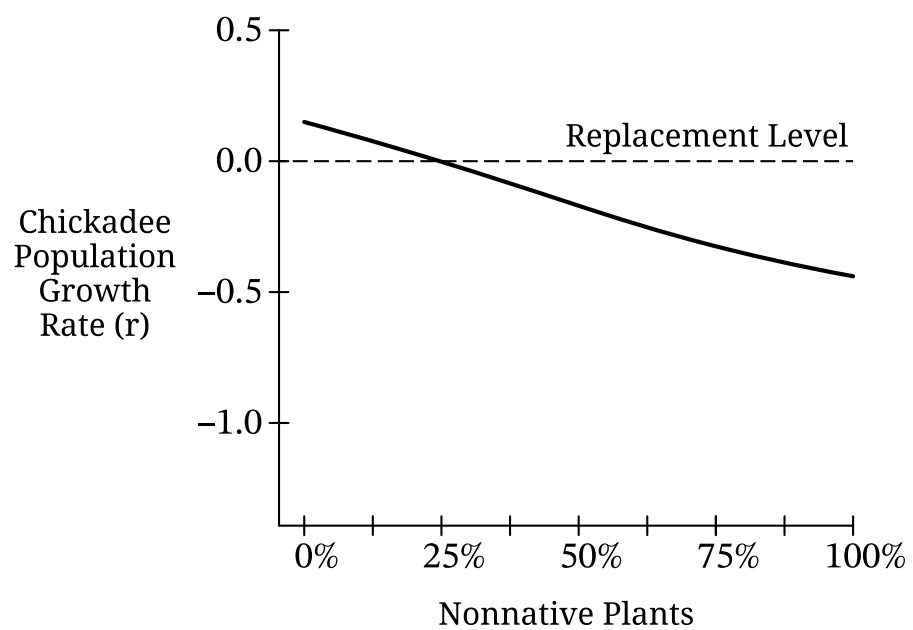


Figure 2. Chickadee Population Average Growth Rate and Percentage of Nonnative



1. Respond to parts A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and H, and all subparts.

- A. **Describe** one reproductive strategy used by a K-selected species such as the chickadee.
- B. Based on the information provided, **explain** how a decrease in spider populations could affect a lower trophic level.
- C. Based on the data in Figure 1, **identify** the number of spiders per sample at 25% nonnative plants.
- D. Based on the data in Figure 1, **describe** the trend in the number of insects per sample in relation to the percentage of nonnative plants.
- E. Scientists hypothesized that the population of chickadees would be stable or growing with fewer than 25% nonnative plants. **Describe** one way that the data in Figure 2 support this hypothesis.
- F. Insect biodiversity is important to maintain ecosystem health. A group of students was interested in learning about factors that affect ant biodiversity. They located two study sites near their school: a frequently mowed urban park and an unmowed grassland. The students used traps designed to collect ants. They loaded 10 of these traps with the same food and placed them randomly at different locations within each site. Students collected the traps after 24 hours and counted the number of different ant species in each trap to determine species richness.
- Identify** a likely scientific question for the students' investigation of ant diversity.
 - Identify** the dependent variable in the students' investigation.
- G. The data from the student investigation of ant diversity are shown in the following table. An "X" in the table indicates that the species was present at that site.

Ant Species Present in an Urban Park and Unmowed Grassland

Site	Species A	Species B	Species C	Species D	Species E	Species F
Urban park	X			X	X	
Grassland	X	X	X	X		X

- Explain** why the ant community of the unmowed grassland would be more likely to recover from a disturbance, such as a flood or fire, than the ant community in the mowed urban park would.
 - Explain** how the results of the investigation could have been altered if students had measured ant biodiversity at a paved playground rather than in the grassland.
- H. Habitat fragmentation has impacts on a variety of species. Paved roads can lead to habitat fragmentation.
- Describe** one effect that a paved road in a forest can have on animal species such as deer or bears.

There is a natural climate phenomenon that occurs in the equatorial Pacific Ocean because of periodic fluctuations in sea surface conditions and atmospheric circulation. This phenomenon happens every few years, resulting in shifts in temperature and precipitation in many parts of the world.

Figure 1 shows temperature and precipitation patterns associated with one phase of this phenomenon in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Figure 2 shows the associated temperature and precipitation patterns that occur over North America.

Figure 1. Effects of Changes in Sea Surface Conditions in Equatorial Pacific Ocean

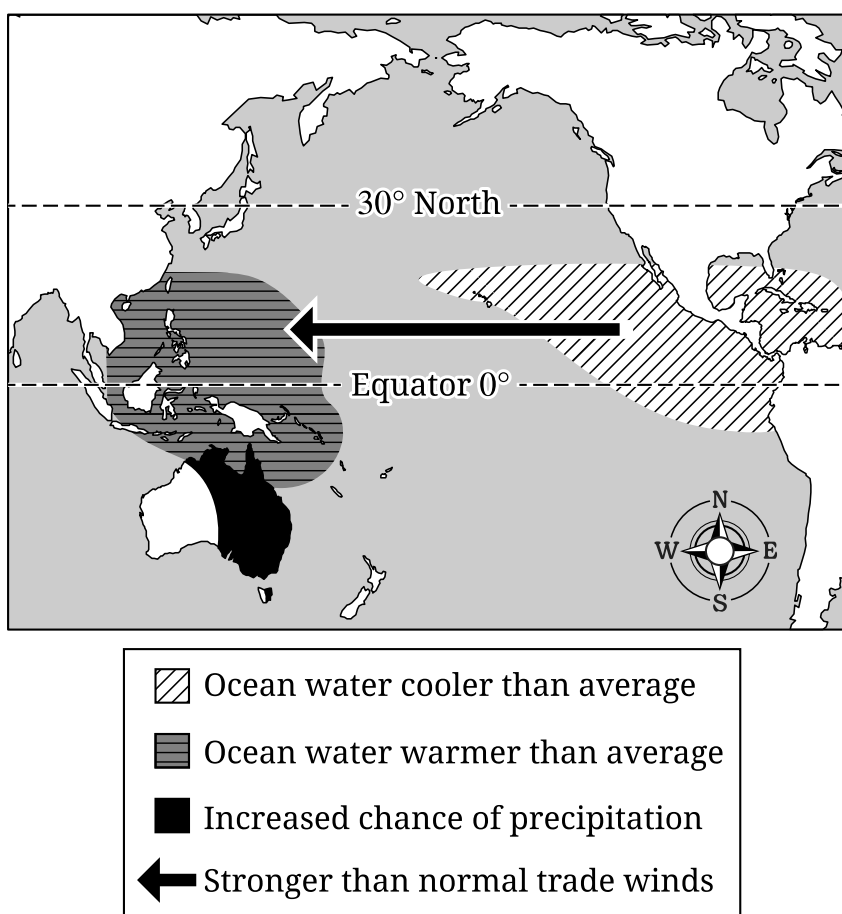
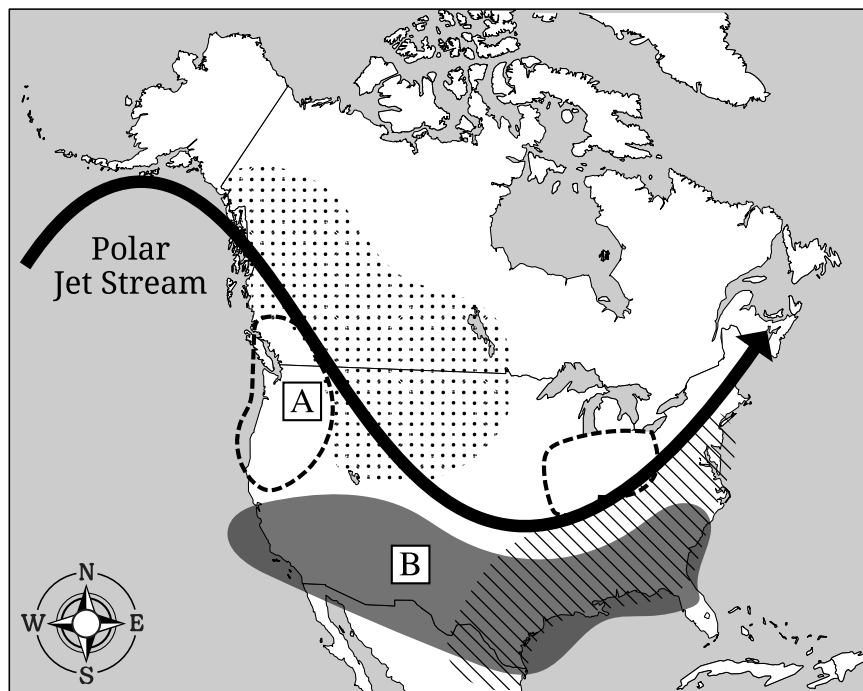


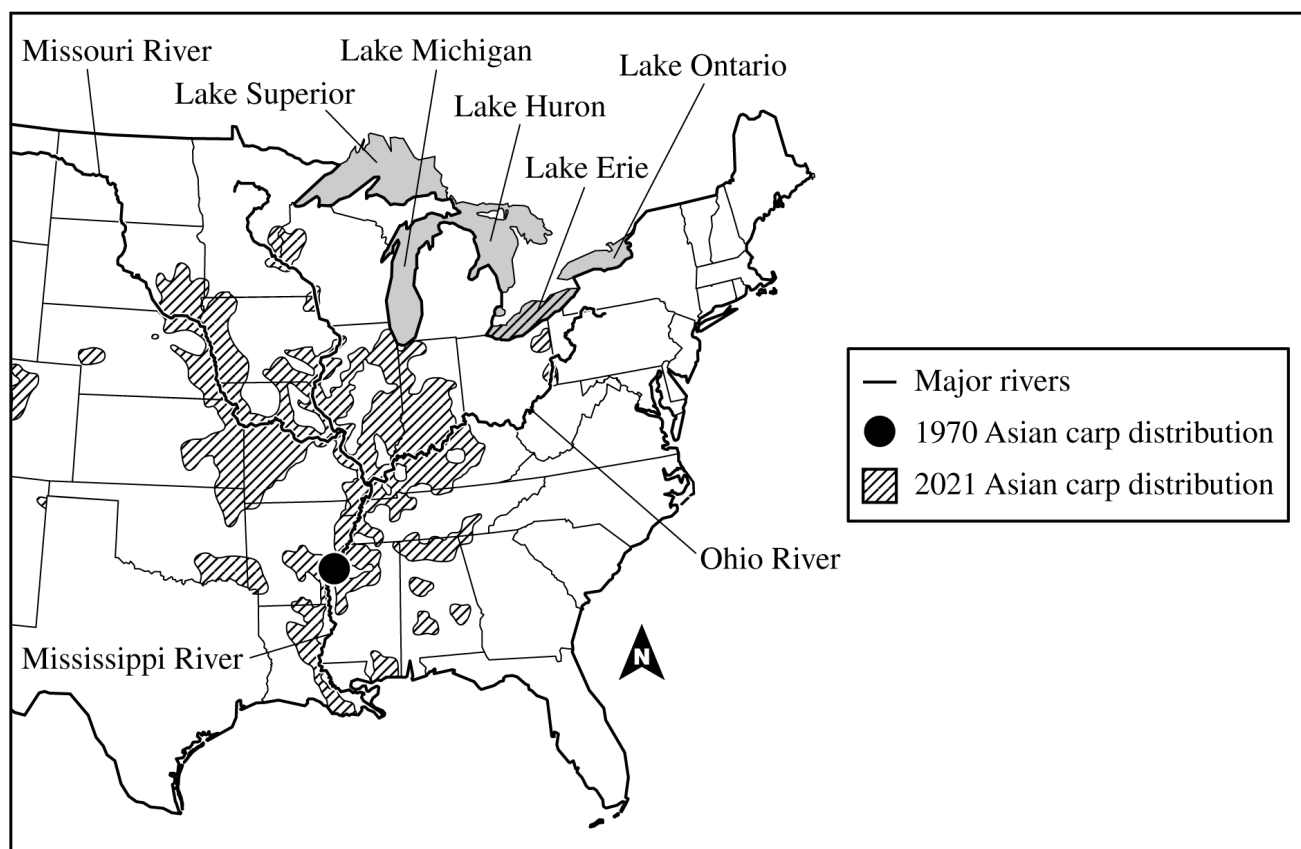
Figure 2. Polar Jet Stream and Climate Conditions in North America



-  Increased chance of precipitation
-  Decreased chance of precipitation
-  Cooler than average
-  Warmer than average

2. Asian carp were first introduced in the southern United States in the 1970s by fish farmers wanting to control algal growth in fish ponds. Asian carp can eat up to 40% of their body weight in algae each day, and a female carp can produce up to 1 million eggs every year.

Distribution of the Asian Carp in the United States



- (a) Based on the information given, **identify** a body of water invaded by Asian carp that is labeled on the map.
- (b) Based on the information shown in the map, **describe** the change in the distribution of Asian carp since their introduction in the 1970s.

The Great Lakes are a group of five major freshwater inland lakes that all share the same watershed.

- (c) **Describe** one impact the introduction of Asian carp could have on the ecosystem services provided by the Great Lakes region.
- (d) **Propose** a realistic solution to help reduce the spread of the Asian carp from their current distribution.
- (e) **Justify** the solution proposed in part (d) by providing an additional advantage.

The following is an example of a simple food chain in the Great Lakes.

Algae → Zooplankton → Macroinvertebrates → Yellow perch → Rainbow trout

- (f) **Identify** the primary consumer in the Great Lakes food chain.
- (g) **Describe** what the arrows in the aquatic food chain represent.

(h) **Describe** one possible effect of the introduction of the Asian carp on the Great Lakes food chain.

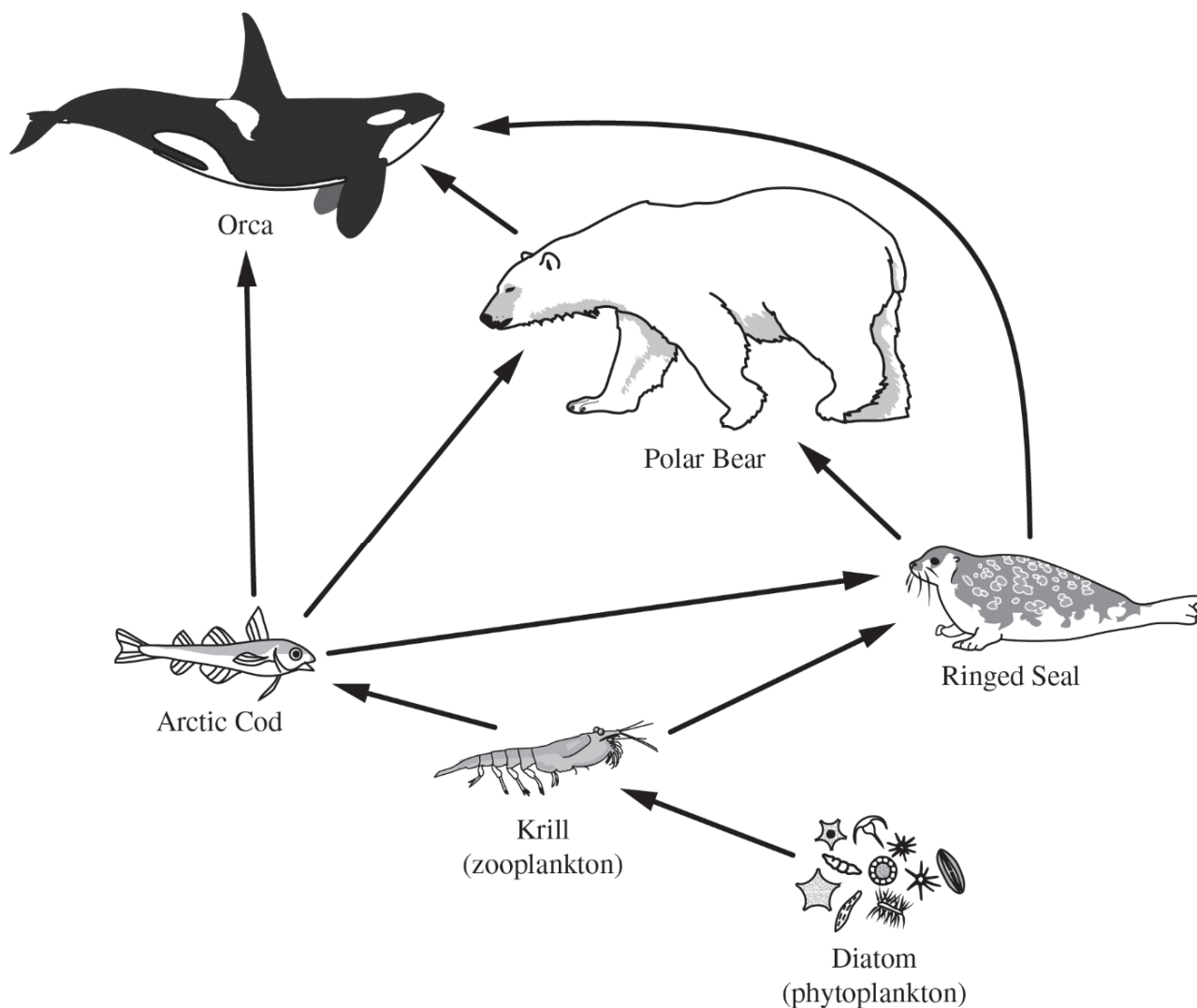
The blue pike, a fish that was endemic to the Great Lakes, was commercially fished from the late 1800s until their population crashed in 1958. In 1970, the species was declared to be extinct.

(i) **Describe** one way that overfishing of blue pike illustrates the tragedy of the commons.

(j) One potential solution to reduce overfishing is to use aquaculture. **Describe** one disadvantage of this solution.

Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.

3. An Arctic food web includes the following organisms.



Note: Figures not drawn to scale.

(a) Refer to the food web above to complete the following table.

	Organism from Arctic food web
(i) Identify a primary producer	
(ii) Identify a primary consumer	
(iii) Identify a secondary consumer	

(b) Other than showing which organisms are consumed by other organisms, **describe** what is indicated by the direction of the arrows in the diagram.

As the amount of sea ice has decreased, larger expanses of the Arctic Ocean are now completely free of sea ice for several weeks each summer. Ringed seals, the preferred prey of polar bears, come to holes in the sea ice to breathe.

- (c) **Describe** how the change in sea ice habitat is affecting polar bears' ability to hunt and feed.
- (d) **Explain** how melting sea ice leads to a feedback loop that increases Arctic warming.
- (e) Many species, including some whales and birds, will travel thousands of kilometers during annual migrations.
 - (i) **Provide** one reason a species may migrate a long distance.
 - (ii) The North Atlantic right whale migrates between subtropical and polar waters annually. Nearly 50 percent of right whale deaths are due to human activities. **Describe** one commercial activity, other than whaling, that may result in the death of right whales.
 - (iii) **Describe** one strategy that could reasonably be implemented to decrease right whale deaths caused by the commercial activity you described in part (ii).

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

SECTION II

Time—90 minutes

4 Questions

Directions: Answer all four questions, which are weighted equally; the suggested time is about 22 minutes for answering each question. Write all your answers on the pages following the questions in this book. Where calculations are required, clearly show how you arrived at your answer. Where explanation or discussion is required, support your answers with relevant information and/or specific examples.

1. Read the following article from the *Fremont New Tribune*.

Fremont New Tribune

May 2, 2016

As another winter concludes, biologists are alarmed by the continued spread of white nose syndrome (WNS) in bats. WNS is a fungal disease that is decimating bat populations across eastern North American forests, with mortality rates reaching up to 100 percent at many sites. WNS has been found in at least 25 states in the United States and 5 Canadian provinces.

The fungus (*Pseudogymnoascus destructans*) grows well in cool conditions such as those found in caves and has been observed as white patches on the muzzles, noses, ears, and wings of many cave-dwelling bats. WNS has caused significant population declines for several bat species, including once-numerous species such as the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*).

Little brown bats hunt using echolocation by emitting up to 200 high-frequency calls per second when pursuing their prey. When healthy, the little brown bat can live up to ten years and have one or two offspring (called pups) each year.

"Little brown bats provide tremendous value to the United States economy every year by the essential services they provide to farmers and other people. We need to understand how this deadly disease spreads and attempt to help reduce its impact on the little brown bat and other bat species," said Dr. Duke Serach of the Fremont office of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Dr. Serach concluded with, "It may yet be possible to save the little brown bats, but the remaining population will be alarmingly small."

- (a) Diseases can devastate populations; however, most diseases do not drive their host to extinction. **Provide** one explanation for why diseases seldom cause extinction.
- (b) Dr. Serach suggests that even if the impact of WNS on little brown bat populations can be reduced and the extinction of the species avoided, the bat populations are likely to remain alarmingly small.
- (i) **Describe** TWO threats (other than WNS) to the survival of the bat species if the total number of bats becomes very small.
 - (ii) If the little brown bat species does not become extinct and can potentially recover, the rate of recovery is likely to be slow. **Discuss** one aspect of bat biology that might slow the recovery of little brown bat populations to pre-WNS numbers.
- (c) Bats are found in ecosystems around the world. **Describe** TWO ways in which other organisms in an ecosystem could be affected by a decline in a bat population.
- (d) The Eastern deciduous forest in which the little brown bats live is an important ecosystem. **Identify** TWO ecosystem services that forests provide, and **explain** how each service benefits human society.

WNS is an emerging disease in bats. Humans are also subject to emerging diseases, such as Ebola. A recent study suggests that the number of emerging infectious diseases affecting human populations has been steadily increasing in recent decades.

- (e) **Provide** a likely reason for the increase in emerging infectious diseases affecting human populations. Include an explanation for the reason you provided.