

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

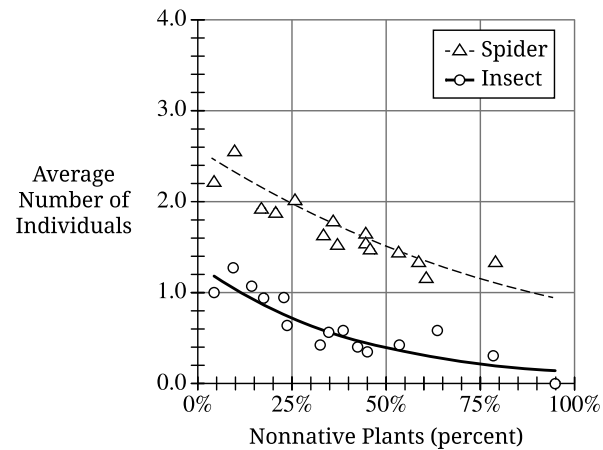
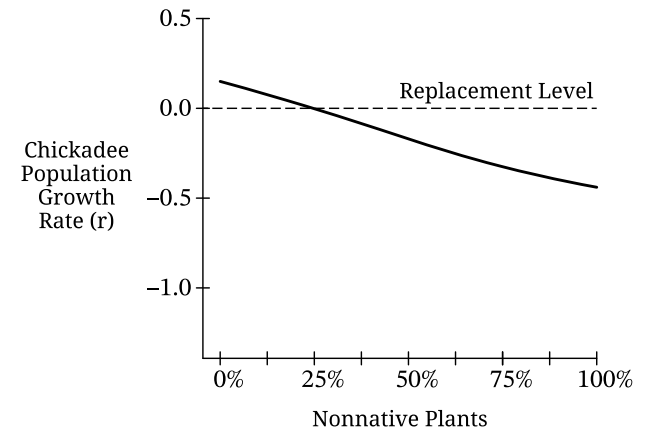


Figure 2. Chickadee Population Average Growth Rate and Percentage of Nonnative



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

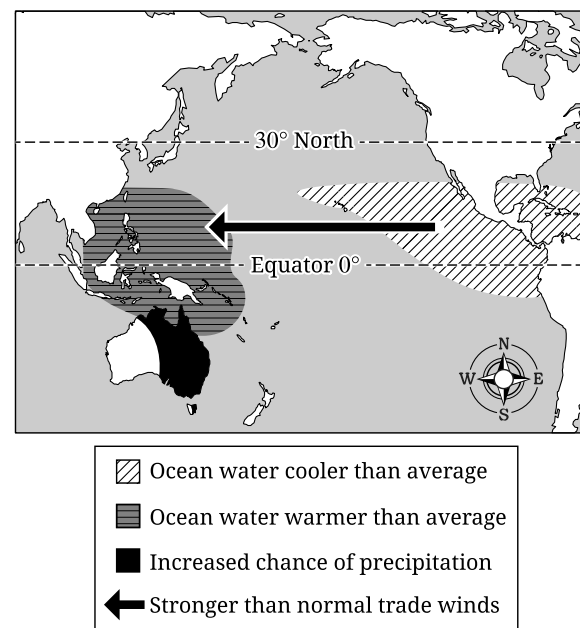
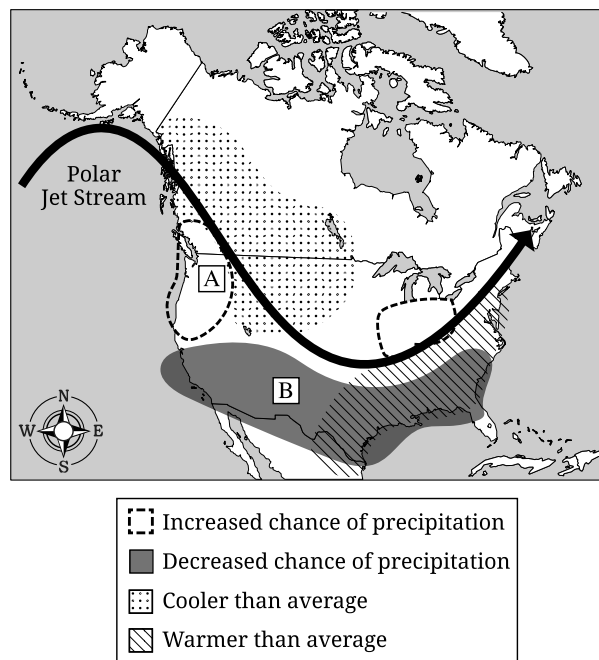


Figure 2. Polar Jet Stream and Climate Conditions in North America

3. Habitat destruction and fragmentation can have many different effects on species.

- (a) **Describe** a characteristic of a specialist species that would make the specialist species more likely to be negatively affected by habitat fragmentation than a generalist species.

A rapidly growing suburban municipality purchases nearby forested land and proposes a newly planned housing development, which would involve clear-cutting much of the area for the construction of single-family homes. While evaluating the land, the development committee discovers that development will encroach upon the habitat of a wood thrush population. The wood thrush is a solitary, territorial bird whose preferred habitat consists of large, intact densely forested areas. Wood thrush populations are also threatened by cowbirds. A cowbird lays her egg in an existing nest of a wood thrush. After the cowbird egg hatches, the cowbird pushes the unhatched wood thrush eggs out. The wood thrush parents raise the cowbird hatchling as their own.

- (b) **Identify** the symbiotic relationship between the wood thrush and the cowbird.
- (c) **Describe** one ecological advantage of leaving areas of undeveloped forest in the development plan as compared to clear-cutting the property.
- (d) **Propose** a solution that will minimize the effect of development on the resident population of wood thrush while still meeting the municipality's need for a housing development.
- (e) A male wood thrush needs a minimum of 800 m^2 of territory for reproduction. The municipal development committee has set a biodiversity preservation target of 275 male wood thrush territories. **Calculate** the area that must be set aside to support the goal of 275 male thrush territories. **Show** your work.
- (f) A real estate developer wants to build houses on the property. The plan will support 1,000 lots with a lot size of $1,100 \text{ m}^2$. The developer has proposed setting aside land equal to 10% of the size of each lot it sells. **Calculate** the maximum number of male wood thrush territories that could be created under this proposal. **Show** your work.
- (g) **Calculate** the percentage of each of the 1,000 lots that would need to be set aside in order to support the goal of 275 male wood thrush territories. **Show** your work.

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.

STOP

END OF EXAM