

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

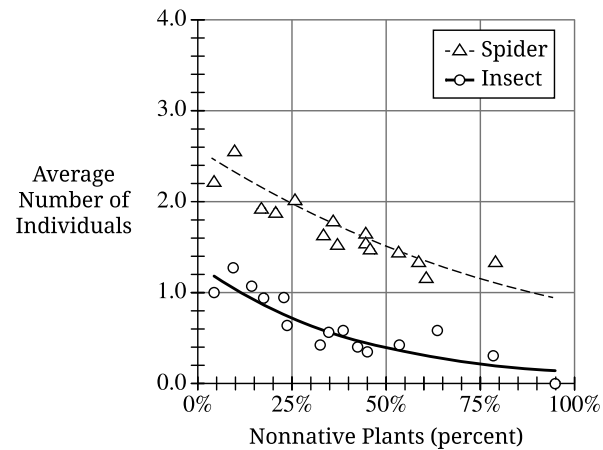
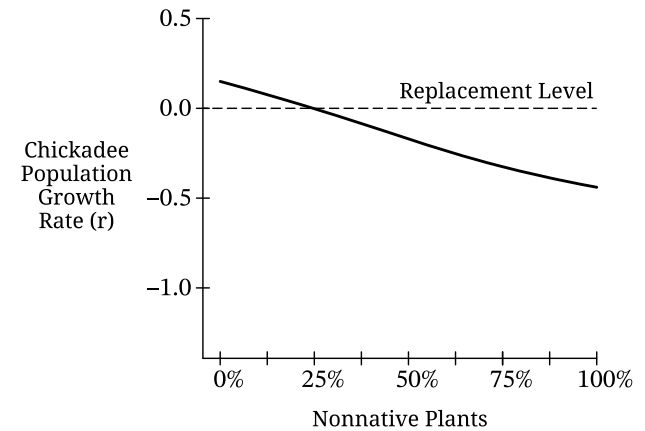


Figure 2. Chickadee Population Average Growth Rate and Percentage of Nonnative



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

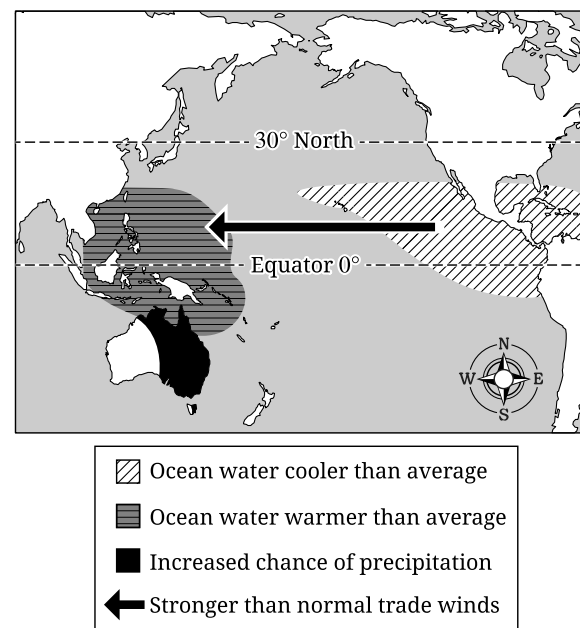
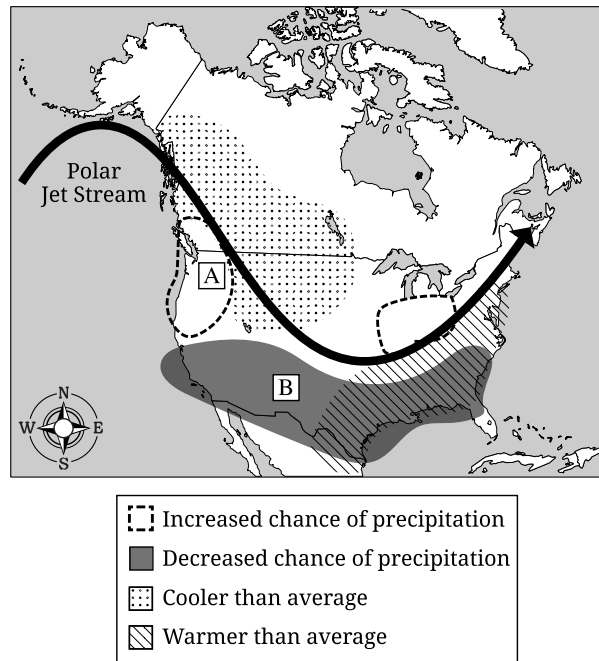
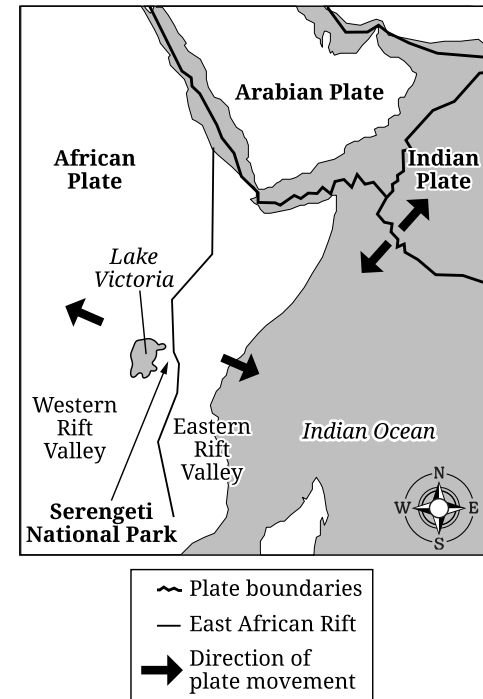


Figure 2. Polar Jet Stream and Climate Conditions in North America



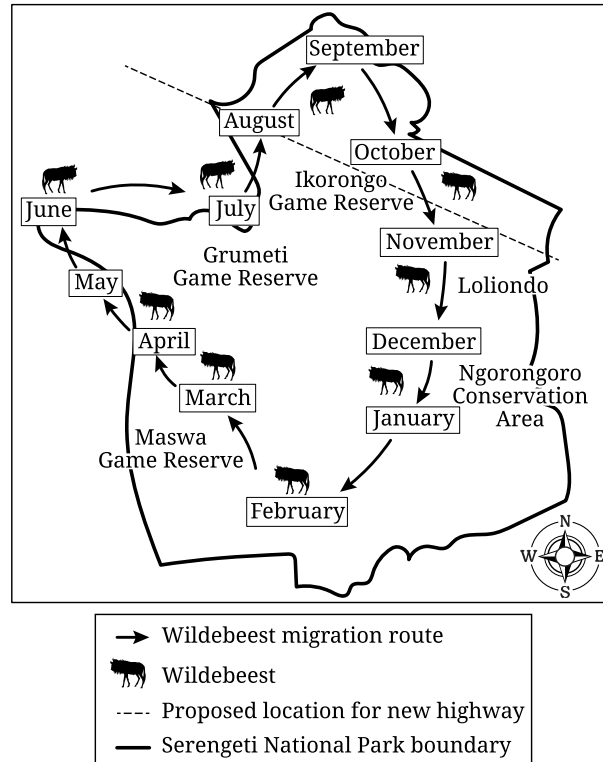
Serengeti National Park is located in Tanzania, Africa. The park is located in a valley along a tectonic plate boundary called the East African Rift. Figure 1 shows the East African Rift and other plate boundaries near the east coast of Africa.

Figure 1. Tectonic Plate Movement near East Coast of Africa



Serengeti National Park contains a variety of tropical habitats but is dominated by wideopen lands that include a variety of grass species with scattered trees and shrubs. Most grass growth occurs after the March through May rainy season. Many of the park's herbivores, such as wildebeest and zebra, migrate through the park in an annual cycle following the growth of new grass (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Annual Migration of Wildebeest in Serengeti National Park



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

- A. Based on the information in Figure 1, **identify** the type of plate boundary that runs beneath Serengeti National Park.
- B. Based on the information provided, **identify** the dominant biome within the Serengeti.
- C. Wildebeest give birth to their young when new grasses are growing. Based on the information in Figure 2, **identify** the location in the Serengeti where wildebeest are most likely to give birth.
- D. The Serengeti has two primary types of grasses: long and short. The two grass types provide similar levels of nutrition for animals. Wildebeest primarily consume long grasses, while other herbivores such as gazelle consume the short grasses. These two similar species coexist in Serengeti National Park.

Explain why resource partitioning allows for the coexistence of the wildebeest and the gazelle in the Serengeti.

- E. The Tanzanian government plans to build a highway across the northern portion of the Serengeti, as shown in Figure 2.

Describe one way the planned highway shown in Figure 2 could negatively affect the wildebeest population in the Serengeti.

- F. **Propose** a solution to the negative effect created by the planned highway described in part E.
- G. Many organisms live in grasslands. One weed species, the spotted knapweed, was introduced at one location in North America in the 1890s and is currently found throughout the rangelands of the western United States. The spotted knapweed poses several environmental problems in North America. Farmers often use crop rotation to control populations of pests like the spotted knapweed. A more traditional method of controlling pests involves spraying pesticides.

Describe a characteristic of an invasive species, such as the spotted knapweed, that allows them to outcompete native species.

- H. **Justify** the use of crop rotation as an environmental solution by providing an additional advantage, other than controlling pest populations.
- I. **Describe** an environmental problem associated with controlling pest populations with large amounts of pesticide.
- J. **Propose** a solution to controlling pests, other than pesticides or crop rotation.

3. The Rocky Mountains, the headwaters for the Colorado River, have experienced a severe drought for many of the past twenty years. States and cities downstream that depend on the river water have had to find solutions to the reduced water flow.

One city located downstream from the Rocky Mountains is Las Vegas, Nevada. In Las Vegas, one solution to reduce the amount of water used for irrigation is to remove landscaping and lawns that use grasses not native to the local area and replace them with desert-tolerant landscaping.

- (a) **Identify** a typical type of plant that would be used in desert-tolerant landscaping.
- (b) **Justify** the removal of landscaping and lawns that use grasses not native to the local area by describing an additional advantage, other than reducing the amount of water needed for irrigation.

Warmer seasonal temperatures in the Rocky Mountains have led to earlier mountain snowmelt and an increased risk of forest fires as soil and vegetation dry out.

- (c) **Describe** how a prescribed burn would reduce the severity and spread of forest fires.
- (d) **Describe** a disadvantage of a prescribed burn in a forested ecosystem.

Lake Powell is a large reservoir on the Colorado River. Lake Powell is formed by a dam with a hydroelectric power plant. At full capacity or full pool, Lake Powell contains 25.16 million acre-feet (maf) of water. Currently, Lake Powell is at 36% full capacity.

- (e) **Calculate** the number of million acre-feet (maf) of water currently in Lake Powell. **Show** your work.

In 2021, after years of drought, Lake Powell held 7.9 million acre-feet (maf) of water. One million acre-feet is equivalent to 3.26×10^{11} gallons.

- (f) The watershed of the Upper Colorado River contributes an average of 9.60 maf of water to Lake Powell annually. The melted mountain snow found in the watershed contributes 50% of the average river flow into Lake Powell. In 2021, the river flow was 36% of the annual average. Assuming that all resources to that flow contributed the same proportions as in prior years, **calculate** the amount of water (in million acre-feet) that was contributed by the melted mountain snow in 2021. **Show** your work.

- (g) The average household in the United States consumes 5.0×10^4 gallons of water in a year. **Calculate** the number of households that could be supported for one year by the average flow of 9.60 maf of water into Lake Powell. **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

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
SECTION II
Time—1 hour and 10 minutes
3 Questions

Directions: Answer all three questions, which are weighted equally; the suggested time is about 22 minutes for answering each question. Write all your answers in the Free Response booklet. 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. You may plan your answers in this orange booklet, but no credit will be given for anything written in this booklet. **You will only earn credit for what you write in the separate Free Response booklet.**

1. Researchers interested in sustainability developed three new varieties of genetically modified green beans designed to produce higher yields in arid regions. Four plots (A–D) were set up on a floodplain of a river to grow beans. Plots A, B, and C were each planted with seeds of different types of genetically modified strains of green beans. Plot D was planted with seeds of unmodified green beans. Each plot was given equal amounts of fertilizer, which contains phosphorus and nitrogen, and water and was irrigated using spray irrigation for one hour per day. Throughout the growing season, researchers measured the amount of green beans harvested within each plot. The plots with genetically modified beans had higher crop yields than the plot with unmodified beans.

- (a) **Identify** the control group in this experiment.
- (b) **Identify** the scientific question for the investigation.
- (c) Researchers repeated the experiment by modifying the length of time for the spray irrigation to 20 minutes per day. **Explain** how the results of the experiment could be altered with this modification.

Researchers also monitored the amount of sediment and fertilizer washing into the river from each plot in the original study. The soil temperature was also measured in each plot at the same depth and at the same time each day approximately 0.05 meters below the surface of the soil.

Genetically Modified Green Bean Experimental Results

Plot	Sediment Runoff (mg/L)	Phosphorus Runoff (mg/L)	Nitrogen Runoff (mg/L)	Soil Temperature (°C)
A (Type 1 GMO beans)	2.4	0.11	1.07	18.6
B (Type 2 GMO beans)	2.1	0.02	0.56	18.3
C (Type 3 GMO beans)	0.9	0.04	0.68	18.3
D (Unmodified beans)	3.5	0.15	1.24	17.6

- (d) Based on the data in the table, **identify** the plot with the lowest soil temperature.
- (e) **Describe** how sediment runoff and fertilizer runoff compare between the unmodified green beans and the genetically modified green beans.

- (f) The Type 2 GMO beans in Plot B were developed to grow more quickly than the unmodified beans in Plot D. Researchers have hypothesized that the Type 2 beans would use fertilizer more completely than the other varieties. Based on the data in the table and the experimental design, **explain** whether the researchers' hypothesis was supported or refuted.

Once the experiment was concluded, the researchers burned the plots to remove the crops that had been planted. After a few years, the researchers returned to the plots and observed a variety of plants, insects, and bird species living there.

- (g) **Describe** the ecological process that occurred on the plots after the crops were burned.

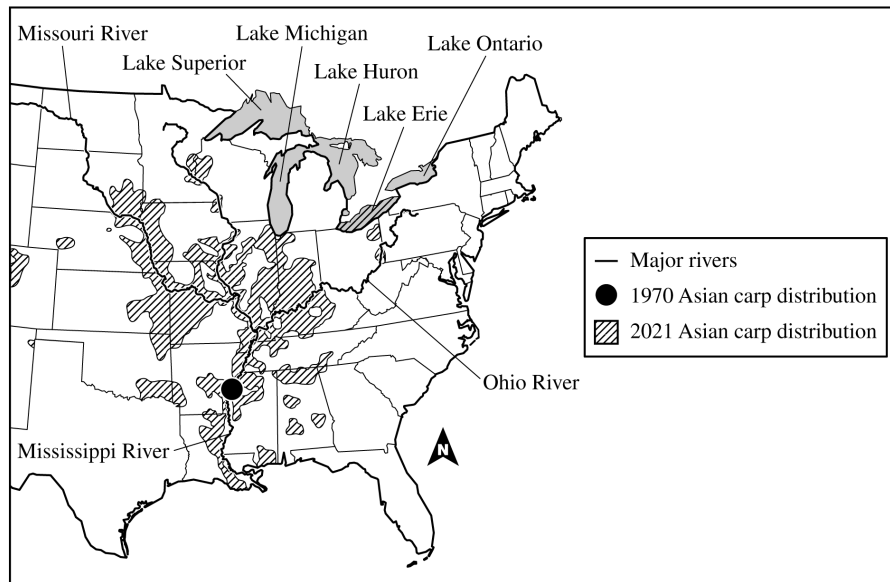
A survey indicated that one of the plots had twice the plant diversity that the other plots had. Over the next five years, the river occasionally flooded the plots, killing off many of the species that inhabited the plots.

- (h) After each flooding event, the plot with twice the plant diversity returned to its prior level of biodiversity more quickly than the other plots did. **Explain** why a community with more plant diversity will recover more quickly from the flooding.
- (i) After the last flooding event, a beetle not previously known in the area appeared in one of the plots with less plant diversity. Over a period of a few months, the new beetle population increased, whereas the existing beetle species in the plot had declining populations. **Explain** why the new beetle species could be better able to successfully populate this plot than the existing beetle species could.
- (j) **Describe** one realistic method to prevent the new beetle from spreading beyond the experimental plot.

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.

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.

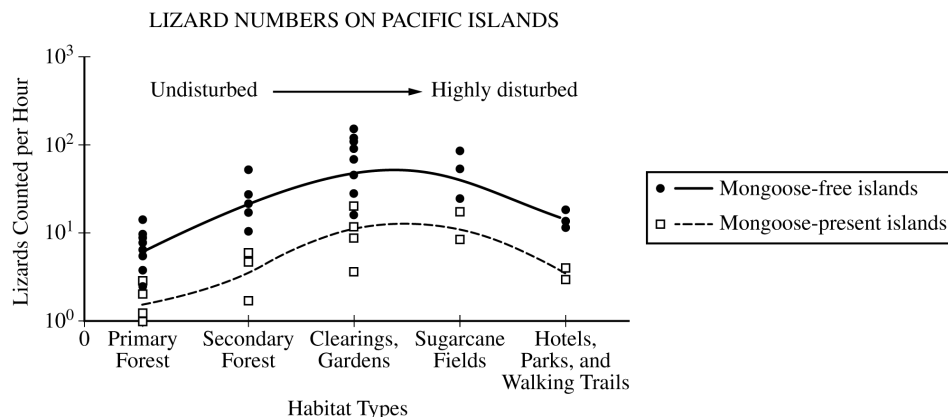
- (h) **Describe** one possible effect of the introduction of the Asian carp on the Great Lakes food chain.

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.

2. Biologists collected data on the abundance of lizards on several Pacific islands with and without mongoose populations. The surveys were conducted at different locations on the islands by counting the number of lizards observed per hour and included habitats with both undisturbed areas and anthropogenically disturbed areas.



- (a) The graph shows data collected by biologists on lizard numbers on several Pacific islands.
- Based on the data in the graph, **identify** the habitat type with the greatest number of lizards.
 - Based on the data in the graph, **describe** the relationship between the lizard numbers observed on islands with and without mongoose populations.
- Globally, islands vary in size, location, and habitat.
- (b) Based on the theory of island biogeography, **describe** the characteristics of an island with the greatest species diversity.
- (c) Island ecosystems are often threatened by invasive species, such as the mongoose populations studied in the survey.
- Describe** one environmental problem caused by invasive animal species.
 - Invasive species are often pests. **Make a claim** that proposes one way to control pest species.
 - Justify** the solution proposed in (c)(ii) by providing an additional benefit of the solution.
- (d) Islands provide humans with many ecosystem services. However, humans may alter ecosystems when they obtain these services. Large-scale commercial sugarcane farming on the Pacific islands has led to significant ecological damage.
- Identify** a provisioning ecosystem service provided by primary forests.
 - Based on the data in the graph, **explain** how replacing primary forests with sugarcane fields may have affected the number of lizards counted on the mongoose-free Pacific islands.
 - The long-term use of monocultures in commercial sugarcane farming is one cause of the ecological damage. **Describe** one problem associated with monocultures.

One solution to the ecological damage of monocultures is to use a form of crop rotation using legumes.

- (e) **Describe** an advantage of crop rotation using legumes on soil fertility.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

SECTION II

Time—1 hour and 30 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 Daily Times* and answer the questions that follow.

Fremont Daily Times

May 1, 2018

GREEN IS THE NEW SCHOOL COLOR AT FREMONT HIGH SCHOOL!

A group of students from Fremont High School addressed the city council last night and proposed that one of the existing buildings at Fremont High School, which was built in 1970, be renovated to take advantage of recent advances in green technology. Currently the heat for the school is provided by fossil fuel combustion. The students said that the redesigned building would reduce the school's carbon footprint, which is a measure of the amount of carbon dioxide and other carbon compounds released by various human activities. Incorporating specific features that conserve energy and utilize

renewable energy sources can help reduce the carbon footprint. Councilperson Gail Fassler praised the idea, saying that the project could conserve local water resources, reduce the need for consuming new resources, and act as a "shining beacon" of sustainability for the greater Fremont community. Fassler suggested the project could even incorporate a living green roof as an additional sustainable feature. The council approved the initial site planning request and urged students to report back when the project was under way.

- (a) The students want to reduce the school's carbon footprint.
- Define** carbon footprint.
 - Identify** one way the school's heating system is likely adding to the school's carbon footprint.
 - Describe** one realistic way to reduce the contribution of the heating system to the school's carbon footprint.
- (b) **Identify** TWO environmental benefits of a living green roof, such as that suggested by Councilperson Fassler.
- (c) **Describe** TWO practices the cafeteria's food service could use to decrease the environmental impacts of Fremont High School.
- (d) **Discuss** TWO benefits of using native plants for landscaping at Fremont High School.
- (e) During the renovation, the carpeting must be replaced. **Discuss** one environmental benefit of using flooring made of plant material, such as cork or bamboo, instead of carpet made of synthetic fibers.