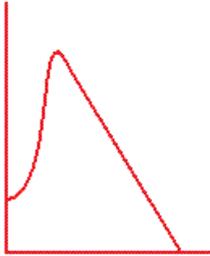


# Arizona Wildlife Podcast Comprehension Activity

## Episode 4: Predator/Prey Relationships

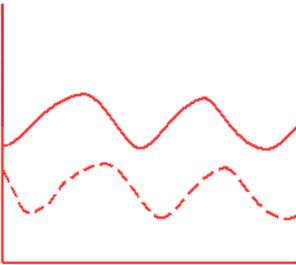
**Part A:** Create a graph to visually depict the following populations over time.

1. A prey population without a major predator (e.g., deer without wolves).



In this graph the prey population grows exponentially. Since there are no predators to keep the population in check, it grows larger than the habitat can support. Eventually, there is not enough food so the population starts to plummet. This could ultimately lead to extinction.

2. A prey population living in balance with a major predator.



The prey population is indicated by the solid curved line while the predator population is the dashed curved line. In this graph, the populations are stable. They will go through rises and falls but they do not go extinct. Notice that the prey has higher numbers. Usually a single predator can consume more than one prey. The prey population rises and falls ahead of the predator. As more prey become available, more predators are supported and vice versa.

**Part B:** Each statement below is incorrect. Determine what is wrong with each one and make changes so they will be correct.

1. Deer populations on the North Kaibab crashed because there were too ~~many~~ few predators.
2. Good ~~prairie-dog mule deer and elk~~ populations are needed for wolves to be reintroduced into an area.
3. Black-footed ferrets have been reintroduced ~~north of the Grand Canyon~~ near Seligman.

**Part C:** Answer each question below in complete sentences. The answers are not necessarily included in the content. They may require some critical thinking.

1. In what ways do hunters help manage wildlife populations and maintain healthy ecosystems? They can keep prey populations in check so they do not over graze the habitat. This is particularly important in areas where large predators have not been reintroduced.
2. The habitats where some large predators used to live have changed dramatically since these animals were eliminated. Describe some challenges we may face by reintroducing these predators back into these habitats.

Many have large ranges and there isn't as much space; potentially dangerous animals near people; may conflict with livelihood of people (e.g., ranching); may be endangered.