



Population

Population

- The total number of one type of species in an area.



Population Control

- Populations cannot just grow to any size.
- The size of a population is controlled by a number of different things.



Limiting Factors

- Anything that restricts the number of individuals in a population.



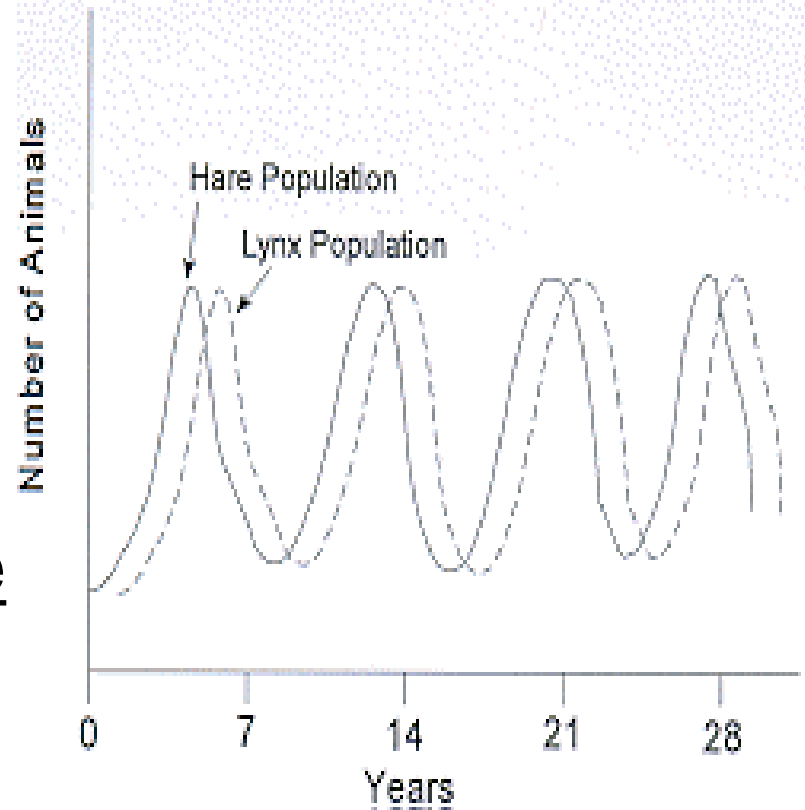
Examples of Limiting Factors

1. Availability of Food
2. Availability of Water
3. Availability of Living Space
4. Availability of Mates
5. Availability of Shelter
6. Number of Competitors



Limiting Factors for one species will often affect the population size of another species.

- There is a drought. The lack of water limits the number of hare in the area. Due to the low number of hare, the lynx population decreases because their food source has decreased.



Carrying Capacity

- The largest number of a certain species that an ecosystem can support over time.
- The carrying capacity is different for each type of organism in an ecosystem.



Carrying Capacity Example

- The carrying capacity in an area is 50 elephants.
- The same area can hold up to 6000 meerkats.

