

CHAPTER 20

Ok... I hope I didn't scare you in the last chapter?
Remember...

Don't give up hope yet!

Six billion people are a lot of mouths to feed, but there are things that you and I can do to help out! In fact, there are all kinds of people out there who try to balance all of the food webs that are in our world! In this chapter, you are going to learn what you and others can do to help out!

Since it is true that...



...we are all
responsible for
our food web
and our
environment!

But what can be done to help out?

You can use the three R's...

Reduce - using less resources

Reuse - using resources again **without** changing them

Recycle - using resources again **after** changing them

I would guess that some of you have been told not to leave the water running or to waste food!

It is important that you do not overuse the resources you need to survive - like water and food!

By running water only when you need it you are reducing the waste of our freshwater! This is very good!

Our food is another resource that can be reduced as well!



At dinnertime, it would be best to take only what you know you are going to eat! All that good food is not going to help anyone if it is thrown in the trash!

Here is one more for you.....and it is very simple!

Did you know that by washing your hands you can keep yourself (or others!) from getting sick?

From the last chapter you learned about disease, remember? A lot of disease is spread between humans through their hands! If you keep yourself clean, there's a good chance that you will not spread any diseases to yourself or to others!

These are really simple things to do! Just try to think before you act! You can make a difference!



Many of you may be thinking that you would like to do more than these simple things to help the environment.

Good for you!

With more and more humans changing the earth, it takes a lot of work to keep our carrying capacity balanced. If you remember, carrying capacity is a balance in the numbers of predators and prey in a habitat. This has been mentioned a lot lately, hasn't it? Well here it comes again...

Carrying capacity is studied by people who work in **Conservation**. Conservation is the protection and careful use of resources and the environment. Conservation agents work throughout the United States of America to protect our natural wildlife!

These people work very hard to protect and manage our natural resources. All of the states in the U.S.A. have groups of conservation **agents**! There are several ways these agents work to conserve our natural resources. Some of them include:

- Hunting/fishing programs
- Restoring damaged habitats
- Educating people about good use of their land
- Releasing organisms into the habitat

Let's take a closer look into each one of these jobs...



Hunting/fishing programs

Some of you may be wondering how hunting and fishing can be helpful! Don't ever forget...

Every living organism is food for another organism!

In order to balance our food web, some organisms must be killed in order to keep other organisms alive!

Conservation agents make certain that only a certain number of living organisms (like deer, birds and fish) are killed every year! The amount of organisms killed every year should never be greater than the number of new organisms being created! So, these agents have to study the environment very closely to make certain that our carrying capacity is balanced at all times! That's a hard job to do!

Fixing damaged habitats

You learned in the past chapter that humans change their environment a lot! These changes affect everyone in the food web!

Sometimes these changes can destroy a habitat for other organisms.

Conservation agents work

to fix habitats for organisms to live there again. Fixing a damaged habitat could include:

- Planting food for animals
- Cleaning up a stream for fish
- Building homes for animals to use

Educating people about good use of their land

Conservation agents work with people to improve their land so that other organisms can live there too. Sometimes, agents work with landowners to teach them how to plant food or build homes to attract animals onto their land. For example, building a birdhouse can attract certain birds onto their land.

MOM!!!

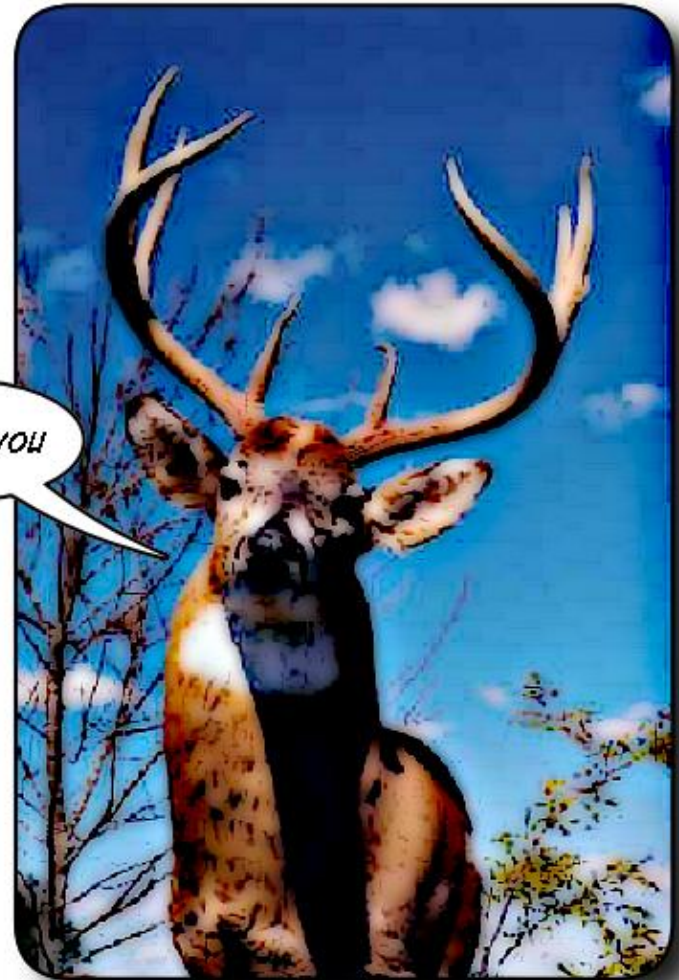


**What's for dinner?!?!
We are hungry!**

Releasing organisms into the habitat

Sometimes, certain species disappear from an area. This can be caused by many things:

- Their habitat could be destroyed
- There could be too many killed by hunters,
- They were all consumed by other predators



BEFORE SETTLERS ARRIVED IN MISSOURI, THERE WERE AROUND 500,000 DEER LIVING IN THIS AREA. BY 1925, HUNTERS HAD KILLED NEARLY ALL DEER IN MISSOURI WITH ONLY 400 FOUND IN THE STATE. BECAUSE OF THE MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND THEIR REINTRODUCTION OF DEER, OVER 1,000,000 CURRENTLY LIVE IN THE STATE!

Remember, if too many organisms are removed from the

habitat, the food web may become unbalanced! If the conservation agents can find the species that has disappeared somewhere else in the world, they may be able to put this organism back into the habitat! This process is called **reintroduction** ("ree-in-tro-duck-shun") and it has been very successful with many different organisms!

Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the bank at the bottom of the page.

Reintroduction _____
organisms _____ their
habitats.

Word Bank:

into
relocating
back
means

Which one is right? Circle the correct answer.

1. Which of the following is not a job for a person who works in conservation?

- a. hunting and fishing programs
- b. fighting fires in a forest
- c. restoring damaged habitats

2. If too many organisms are taken from a habitat...

- a. the food web may become unbalanced
- b. all of the food chains will get larger
- c. the amount of resources in a habitat will increase

3. Species may become extinct because:

- a. they move to a different habitat
- b. their habitat becomes destroyed
- c. their populations get too large

4. "Every living organism is..."

- a. ...either a herbivore or a carnivore."
- b. ...heterotrophic."
- c. ...food for another organism."

5. The number of animals that are hunted...

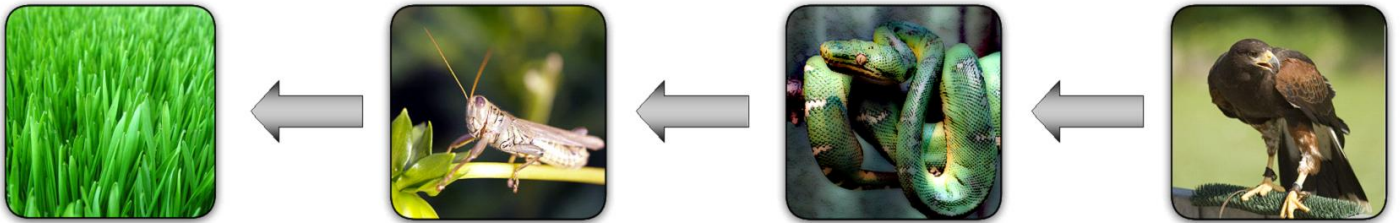
- a. ...should be greater than the number being created.
- b. ...should be less than the number being created.
- c. ...should be the same as the number being created.

6. Which of the following is a good reason for reintroduction?

- a. too many of the organisms were killed by predators
- b. hunters want new organisms to kill
- c. other organisms need more prey to eat

Unit Five review

Find the producers, herbivores, carnivores, prey and consumers in the picture. List them below.



Producers	Herbivores	Carnivores	Prey	Consumers

Is this picture showing you a food chain or a food web?

What is the difference between a food chain and a food web?

Be certain to go over your definitions for the test!