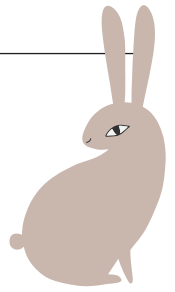
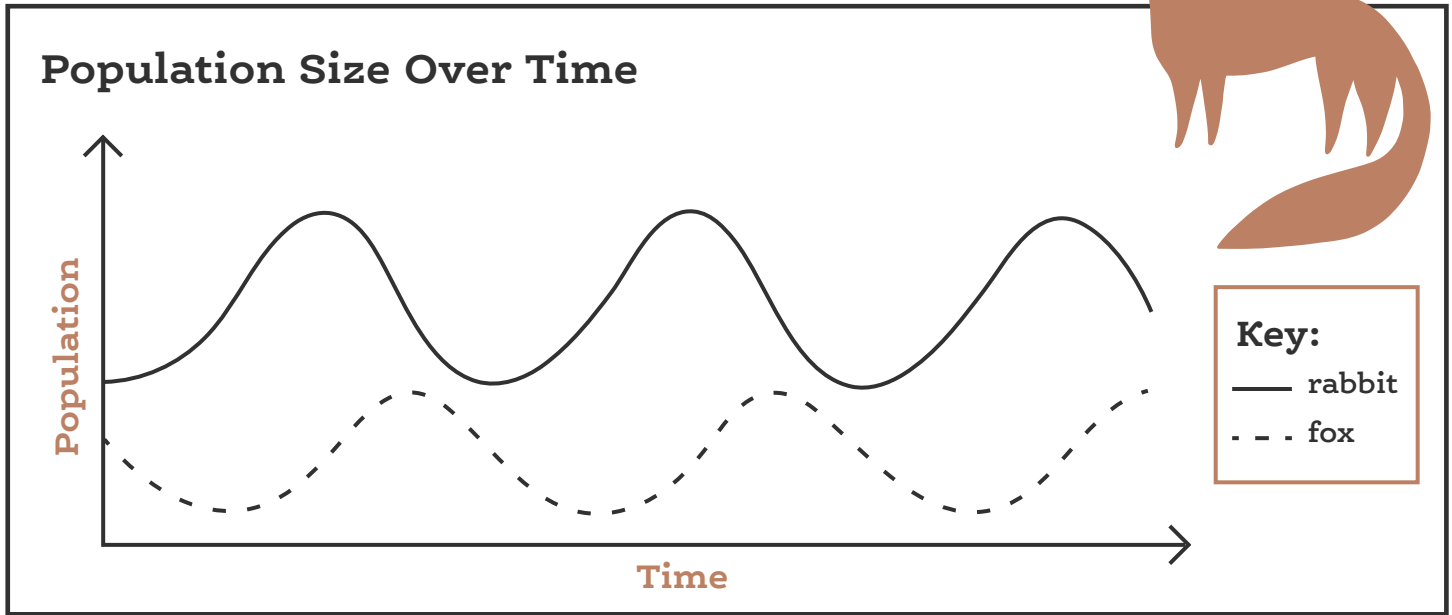
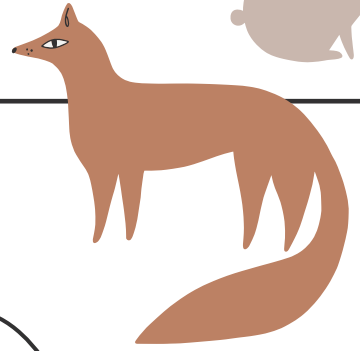


Population Growth Factors



The graph below shows trends in the fox population and rabbit population in a forest ecosystem over 10 years.



Analyze the graph and answer the questions below.

1. Which animal is the predator, and which is the prey?

2. When the fox population was at a peak, was the rabbit population increasing or decreasing? Why?

3. When the rabbit population was at a peak, was the fox population increasing or decreasing? Why?

4. Notice that the fox population was always smaller than the rabbit population. Why do you think that happened?

5. If there were no foxes in the ecosystem, could the rabbit population grow indefinitely? Why or why not?

6. What do you think would happen to the populations of both organisms if their ecosystem was affected by a drought? Why?

