

Population growth

Population:- a group of animals or plants of the same species living in the same habitat.

In a forest you have a variety of animals and plants which live together in populations.

Animals:- birds

Snails

Squirrels

Grass hoppers

Caterpillars

Plants:- grass

bushes (blackberry)

trees

Animals and plants live together in populations as plants can provide habitats as well as a food source. Similarly a variety of plants reduces competition for animals and increasing species diversity. Furthermore with a variety of animals there is more food sources created without losing a type of specie by too much competition.

Population growth curves

A normal pattern has three phases:

1. A period of slow growth
2. A period of rapid growth
3. A period where the population growth decline



If you put a single algal cell, capable of asexual reproduction into a newly created pond the limiting factors would be a period of slow growth which would occur from a lack of minerals and vitamins in the water. With no limiting factors there would be a period of fast growth and then eventually there will be a decline until it is stable.

Limiting factors:- factors which can limit the growth of a population.

Abiotic:- refers to non-living factors such as sunlight, temperature and wind

Biotic:- refers to living factors such as predation and competition between different species or individuals of one species.

How do humans affect population growth?

Human population has resulted in the deforestation, reduction in fish stocks and the decline in dairy farms due to super farming in America. Deforestation has occurred due to a need for vegetation as well as land to build and develop. This has caused a reduction the variety of species as forests have many different levels for animals to build habitats, as well as a reduction in the variety of plants as usually only one specific plant is needed. Fish stocks in the sea have decreased due to high demand to feed the world's population of humans and animals. Over fishing has resulted in many areas being deprived for other animals reliant on fish as their main food source. Cows in fields has decreased as super farms in America have shown mass production of milk can be produced in larger quantities by