

Population Dynamics Introduction Handout

As you work your way through the population dynamics introduction video, answer the following questions to help you collect the relevant information.

1. Define the following terms and where possible, give an example:

I. Autotroph

II. Heterotroph

III. Mutualism

IV. Parasitism

V. Predator and prey

VI. The food chain

2. What is intra-specific competition? Provide an example.

3. What is carrying capacity?

4. What is interspecific competition? Provide an example. How can species avoid this type of competition?
5. What are population cycles? Describe why and how vole populations undergo population cycles.
6. Describe and explain what happened to the peppered moth population during the industrial revolution.
7. What is mimicry?
8. Many factors affect the size and structure of a population. What are some of the ways that humans could affect a population, either negatively or positively?