

Population Chart Follow-up Questions

1. What surprised you about this data table? Were there organisms that had more or less biomass than you expected?
2. What is biomass? How might it be related to energy?
3. Why are we losing biomass between each trophic level?
4. Between which trophic levels did we see the most dramatic loss of biomass? Why might this be happening?
5. What might happen to this ecosystem if wolves disappeared? How would it affect the biomass of other organisms?
6. What would a 4th level consumer look like in this ecosystem? Assuming that one needs at least 25 individuals to sustain a population, how big could this hypothetical organism be?