

Populations Live in Habitats

Discusses habitats and populations in the context of daily life and bighorn sheep.

1. Introduce the ecological principles of habitats and populations
2. Connect the principles to this case study about bighorn sheep

Habitat and Populations

A habitat is an environmental area that is inhabited by a particular species of animal, plant or other type of organisms. To reinforce the concept of habitat it is important for the students to understand that there is often a relationship between the health of the habitat and a species population size. The healthier the habitat, the more the population will flourish.

Note: Sometimes degraded habitats are no longer hospitable to native populations, but invasive species may move in and flourish.

Discussion

Key Idea: Populations live in specific habitats.

Question: What is habitat?

Answer: The environment where a population/organism lives.

Question: What is the habitat for bighorn sheep?

Answer: Mountaintops in the Nevada and California desert.

Question: What is a population?

Answer: A population is a group of the same species that lives in the same area.

Question: How are bighorn sheep populations defined?

Answer: By their mountaintop habitat.