

CREATIVITY CORNER

Keystone Species Matching Activity

Instructions: After watching Mr. Matt's video on keystone species, match each word listed below with its corresponding definition.

- Bonus: Circle the animals identified by Mr. Matt as keystone species in the video. (Don't get tricked! Not every animal listed is a keystone species.)

We love to see your work! Once completed, share your work with your teacher or Mr. Matt.

A. Beaver	___ Living things interacting with each other within a given area where each organism has a role to play.
B. Lake Trout	___ Changes in an ecosystem due to the addition or removal of a top predator.
C. Elk	___ Aquatic invasive species that decimated cutthroat trout population in Yellowstone National Park.
D. Ecosystem	___ Important food source for many animals in Yellowstone National Park, whose numbers have been drastically impacted by the presence of non-native fish.
E. Keystone Species	___ This animal creates wetlands, on which 85% of all North American animals rely. Also, the largest rodent species in North America!
F. Gray Wolf	___ A life form that affects an entire community of plants and animals. If it were removed, the ecosystem would change drastically.
G. Cutthroat Trout	___ With an unchecked population, this animal in Yellowstone National Park affected other animal populations by overgrazing.
H. Trophic Cascade	___ Non-native species introduced by bucket biology in the 1980's. Over 300,000 removed from Yellowstone Lake annually.
I. Whirling Disease	___ An apex predator whose presence helps to keep elk populations in check.



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Don't forget to clean, drain and dry your outdoor gear to prevent the spread of invasive species!