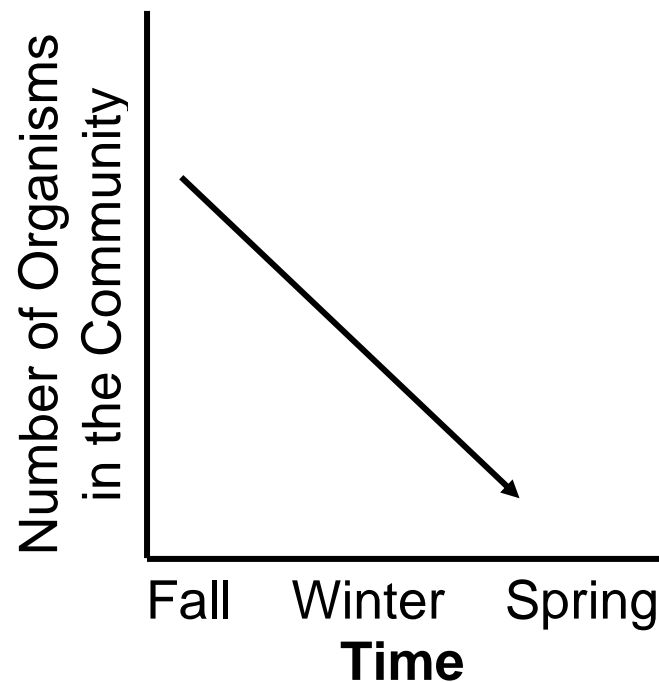
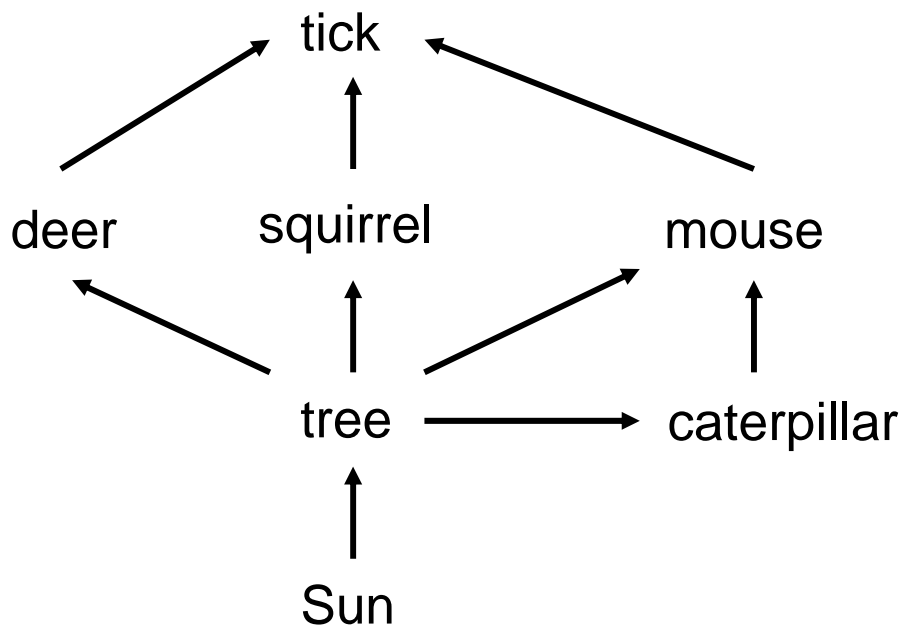


Observe the food web and the population graph.



What could be the reason for the declining animal populations? Explain your thinking.

Reporting Category 4: Organisms and Environments

TEKS

4.9B: The student is expected to describe the flow of energy through food webs, beginning with the Sun, and predict how changes in the ecosystem affect the food web such as a fire in a forest.

Answer

All of the animals depend on the trees for energy. The trees could be diseased and dying, removing a major food source from the web. Humans could be building a housing development where the food web is located. This could lead to the removal of trees, which also would remove the food source. Animals would either die of starvation or relocate to find an alternate food source.

Teacher Notes

Food webs are introduced in fourth grade. Students begin learning about food chains and interdependence in first grade (TEKS 1.9C).