

Name _____

Keystone Species: Guardians of Ecosystems

Open-Ended Response Questions

1. Explore the concept of keystone species by discussing how their removal can lead to cascading effects throughout an ecosystem, providing examples to support your explanation.
2. Consider the potential implications of introducing or reintroducing keystone species into ecosystems where they have been extirpated, discussing both positive and negative consequences.
3. Compare and contrast the roles of keystone species in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, highlighting similarities and differences in their ecological functions.
4. Reflect on the ethical considerations involved in managing keystone species populations, weighing the benefits of conservation efforts against potential conflicts with human interests.

