

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Wolves: Guardians of the Ecosystem

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. If wolves disappeared, prey populations would grow too large, causing overgrazing and harming plants, which would impact other species in the food chain.
2. Wolves influence smaller species by maintaining healthy vegetation and providing food for scavengers through their hunting activities.
3. Wolves symbolize wilderness because they represent strength, freedom, and the balance of nature, often playing roles in cultural traditions.
4. Humans harm wolves through habitat destruction and hunting but help them through conservation programs and protected reserves.

