



**ANSWER KEY**

**Exercise: 1**

**Instructions:** Answer the questions below.

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1. Why did so many of the large mammal populations become so low in the earlier part of the nineteen hundreds? Have the species fully recovered?

Humans hunted, trapped, and altered much of many species of mammal's needed habitat. Strict hunting regulations, and transplanting have allowed species to recover. Some species such as deer and moose have recovered well, but most other species are much less abundant than they used to be.

2. Why is it important that we try to prevent species from going extinct?

Answers will vary, but you should point out to students that extinction is a natural process and is not always bad; it gives other species more resources and room to develop. Extinction is bad when humans are the direct cause, and many species have gone extinct because of humans. We should try to prevent extinction because we can not be sure how the removal of a species will affect the ecosystem. Extinction will also mean the loss of a species forever.

3. What happened to the wolf population and why did this happen. Why are some people opposed to wolf reintroduction?

The demise of the wolf can be attributed partially to huge declines in game population upon which they feed in the earlier part of the century, results of livestock introduction, and over hunting. Many people oppose wolf reintroduction because they fear that wolves will destroy livestock.

4. Why have mountain goats not been subjected to the over-hunting that most other large mammals have suffered?

Mountain goats usually inhabit very high, remote mountain areas. They have not been hunted nearly as much as many other species of large mammals have been.

5. What happened to the members of the weasel family in Idaho, why are they now recovering?

Why have the Salmon and Steelhead runs stopped? Members of the weasel family were trapped mainly for their furs and humans took a heavy toll on their populations. Habitat destruction by humans also harmed their populations. Thanks to restricted trapping regulations and re-introductions, their numbers are increasing.

6. Why have the Salmon and Steelhead runs stopped?

The Salmon and Steelhead runs have stopped because of dams, fishing, and increased sedimentation from logging and over grazing have eliminated the wild runs.