Before the Game

Answer the following questions prior to the game.

1. Can populations grow infinitely?

2. What would limit the size of a population of wolves? mice? fish? humans?

3. Why might human populations have different limiting factors than other animals?

4. Do you think humans are at their carrying capacity now? Will they ever be? Why do you think so?

5. What factors do you predict to have the greatest effect on populations?
Student Worksheet: The Game of Population Changes
After the Game

Answer the following questions when the game has been completed.

6. What population(s) of birds was closest to carrying capacity at the end of the game?

7. How would you classify each one of your events? (biotic factor, abiotic factor, immigration, emigration, birth rate, death rate) - You may list more than one.

#1. ____________________________  #6. ____________________________
#2. ____________________________  #7. ____________________________
#3. ____________________________  #8. ____________________________
#4. ____________________________  #9. ____________________________
#5. ____________________________  #10. ____________________________

8. Which type of event do you think had the biggest impact on your populations of birds? Explain.

9. Do you think the events and the changes in the population were realistic? Why or why not?