

## **Keystone Species**

*Go to [jmazzabiology.com](http://jmazzabiology.com) and click on Links under Biology 1. Under Ecology click on link #27 (Keystone Species).*

*As you read the article, answer the questions below.*

- 1) What is a keystone species (in your own words, not taken directly from the article)?
- 2) What is the role of an organism in an environment called (from your notes, not the article). Using this concept, why is it beneficial to have many different species living together in an ecosystem?
- 3) Did the removal of a top predator (the Pisaster) in the intertidal ecosystem have a positive or negative affect on the number of different species that were present? Explain your reasoning.
- 4) Why did people force the grey wolf out of the western U.S.?
- 5) Draw a simple food chain that has elks, wolves, and willow trees. Using this food chain, describe what happened to the elk and willow tree populations when the wolves were removed from Yellowstone Park.
- 6) How did the changes in the elk and willow tree population mentioned in number five negatively affect other conditions in the park?
- 7) How did ecologists try to fix the problem caused by the eradication of the grey wolf? What have the results been so far?