Chapter 8 – Predatory Mammals

Discussion & Essay

1. Explain how food supplies, diseases, and natural disasters that affect the rise or decline of the animal populations near your home.
2. Describe how predatory animals play a role in stabilizing populations of primary consumers in the food web.
3. What roles do wild cats fill in the ecosystems of North America?
4. Select a predatory animal and summarize the events in its life cycle and their significance, such as the timing of mating, gestation, birth, and weaning of the young, and other important events.
5. What are the roles of foxes, coyotes, and wolves in the ecosystems where they live?
6. What do bears eat and what are their roles in North America?
7. List some characteristics of members of the weasel family that contribute to their success as predators.
8. What characteristics of raccoons and coyotes have enabled them to thrive in and near human population centers?

Multiple Choice

1. The preferred prey of the Canada lynx is:
   1. Deer
   2. Squirrels
   3. Lemmings
   4. Hares
2. Which member of the cat family is widely distributed through most of the United States and Mexico?
   1. Canada lynx
   2. Bobcat
   3. Puma
   4. Ocelot
3. Which member of the cat family preys most heavily upon deer?
   1. Ocelot
   2. Margay
   3. Puma
   4. Bobcat
4. Which of the following members of the cat family is not classified as an endangered species?
   1. Mountain lion
   2. Margay
   3. Ocelot
   4. Jaguarondi
5. Which of the following foxes is distributed only in the northern tundra region of North America?
   1. Red fox
   2. Kit fox
   3. Arctic fox
   4. Gray fox
6. The correct term for a male fox is:
   1. Dog
   2. Lobo
   3. Vixen
   4. Bitch
7. Which of the following members of the dog family was adapted best to living near humans?
   1. Coyote
   2. Gray wolf
   3. Arctic wolf
   4. Red wolf
8. Which of the bears is most widely distributed in North America?
   1. Alaskan brown bear
   2. American black bear
   3. Polar bear
   4. Grizzly bear
9. Which of the North American bears is the largest?
   1. Alaskan brown bear
   2. American brown bear
   3. Polar bear
   4. Grizzly bear
10. Which member of the weasel family depends upon prairie dogs as its principle source of food?
    1. Short-tailed weasel
    2. Mink
    3. Black-footed ferret
    4. Wolverine
11. Which member of the weasel family prefers to live and hunt in forested areas?
    1. Striped skunk
    2. Martin
    3. Black-footed ferret
    4. Wolverine
12. Which member of the weasel family is equipped with long digging claws that are used to construct its burros and to dig up small rodents that live in underground burrows?
    1. Striped skunk
    2. Fisher
    3. Badger
    4. Wolverine