

Skills Worksheet

Active Reading**Section: How Populations Change in Size**

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

Over time, the growth rates of populations change because birth rates and death rates increase or decrease. Growth rates can be positive, negative, or zero. For a population's growth rate to be zero, the average number of births must equal the average number of deaths. A population would remain the same size if each pair of adults produced exactly two offspring, and each of those offspring survived to reproduce. If the adults in a population are not replaced by new births, the growth rate will be negative and the population will shrink.

IDENTIFYING MAIN IDEAS

One reading skill is the ability to identify the main idea of a passage. The main idea is the main focus or key idea. Frequently, a main idea is accompanied by supporting information that offers detailed facts about main ideas.

In the space provided, write the letter of the term or phrase that best matches the description.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| _____ 1. The average number of deaths is greater than the average number of births. | a. positive growth rate |
| _____ 2. The average number of deaths equals the average number of births. | b. negative growth rate |
| _____ 3. The average number of births is greater than the average number of deaths. | c. zero growth rate |
| 4. Growth rate is the birth rate minus the | |
| _____ | |
| 5. Suppose that every year, one half of the population has two offspring per person, and the other half has none. If all members of the population die after a year, what is the resulting growth rate? Explain your answer. | |
| _____ | |
| _____ | |
| _____ | |

Holt Environmental Science Understanding Populations

Directed Reading

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