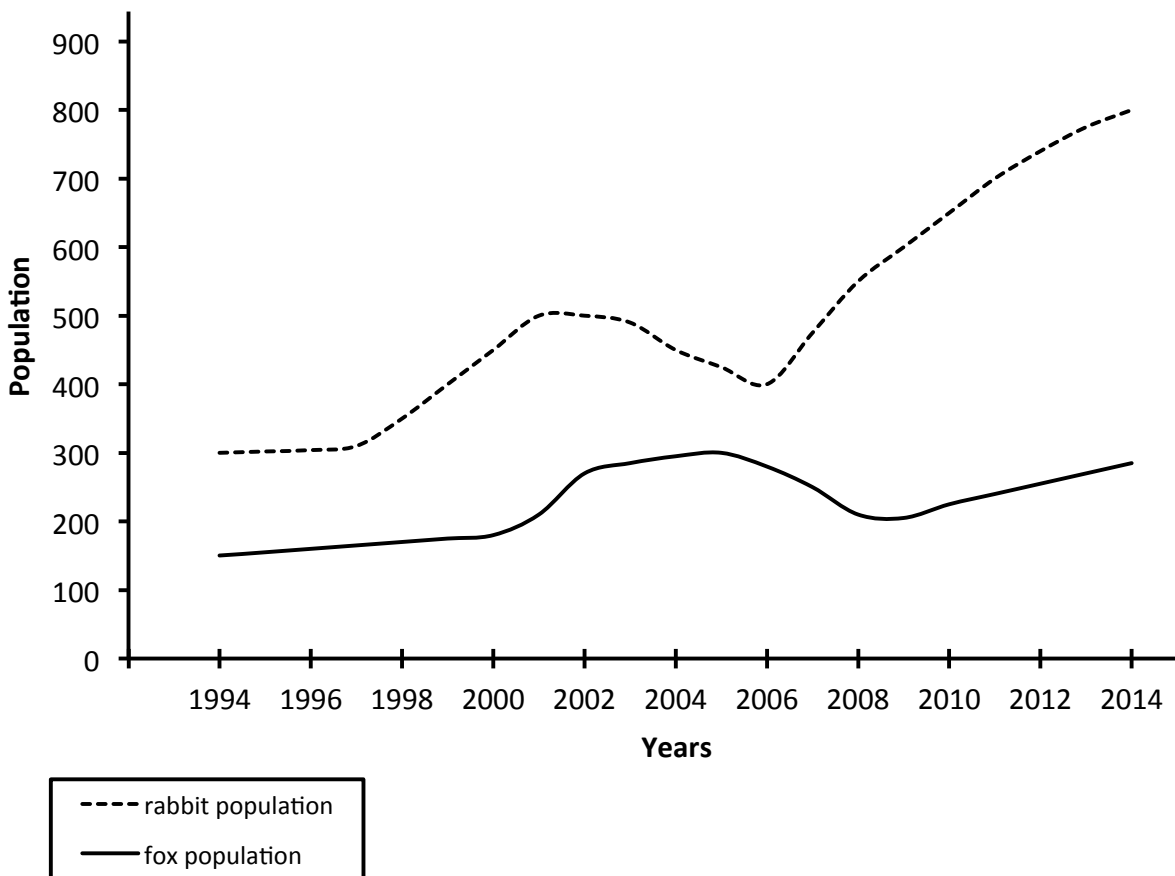


Predator-Prey Interactions: Foxes and Rabbits

The populations that inhabit a community can be shown quickly and easily by creating a graph. The graph below shows the rabbit and fox populations in one county in southern Idaho over a 20-year period. Study the graph, keeping in mind that the foxes prey on the rabbits. Then answer the questions that follow.



1. How many more rabbits were there in 2002 than there were in 1994?

2. What do you think may have caused the change in the number of rabbits between 2002 and 1994?

3. How many foxes lived in the county in 1994? _____

4. How did the increase in rabbits between 1994 and 2002 affect the fox population?

5. Look at the change in rabbit population between the years 2002 and 2006. Why do you think the change in rabbit population occurred?

6. What happened to the fox population between 2005 and 2008?

7. Why do you think this change occurred?

8. During what year was the fox population the highest? _____

9. How many foxes lived in the county in this year? _____

10. How many more rabbits lived in the county in 2014 than lived there in 1994?

11. If the graph were to be extended for another five years, would you expect the fox population to increase, decrease, or remain the same? Explain your answer.
