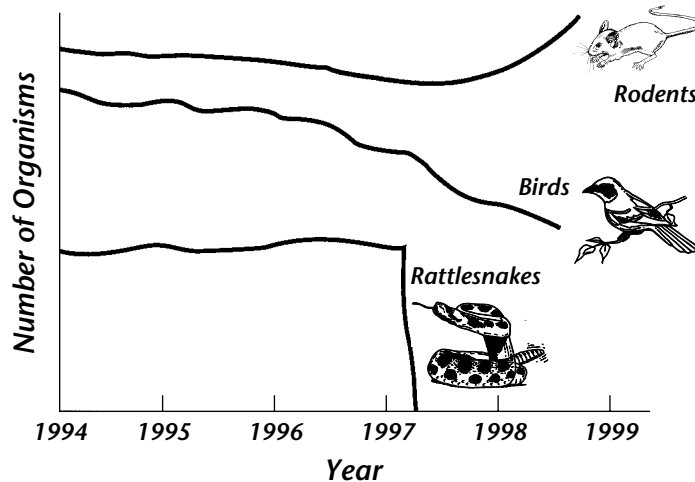


Populations and Communities ▪ *Enrich***Analyzing Interactions Among Organisms**

In 1997, a community decided to get rid of the population of rattlesnakes in the area. The graph below shows what happened to the populations of rattlesnakes, birds, and rodents. (The rodents included animals such as mice, rats, and prairie dogs.)

Populations of Rodents, Birds, and Rattlesnakes



Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Did the bird populations appear to benefit from the elimination of the rattlesnakes? How do you know?
2. Did the rodent populations appear to benefit from the elimination of the rattlesnakes? How do you know?
3. What was the main source of food for the rattlesnakes? How can you tell?
4. Why do you think the bird populations decreased sharply after the rattlesnakes were eliminated?
5. Do you think it was a good idea for the community to eliminate the rattlesnake population? Explain your answer.