

## Skills Worksheet

**Active Reading****Section: Populations**

Read the passage below. Then answer the questions that follow.

One of the most important features of any **population** is its size. The number of individuals in a population can affect the population's ability to survive. Some populations die out because of a lack of resources, and some populations get large enough to cause problems in the environment. Populations of different species interact and affect one another. That is why it is important to understand how populations grow.

Populations grow when individuals are born or when individuals move into, or immigrate into, a population. Populations decrease when individuals die or move out of, or emigrate from, a population. When more individuals are born than die, a population grows. As more and more individuals are born, more become reproductive, and the birth rate increases sharply. When this type of population growth rate is not limited by the environment's **carrying capacity**, the population experiences exponential growth.

Populations do not grow unlimited forever. An ecosystem can support only so many organisms. Eventually, population growth slows and may stabilize around the carrying capacity. This is called logistic growth.

**SKILL: READING EFFECTIVELY**

Read each question, and write your answer in the space provided.

1. What is one of the most important features of a population?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What terms are used to describe the movement of individuals into and out of a population?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What two types of population growth are described in the passage?

\_\_\_\_\_

In the space provided, write the letter of the term that best answers the question.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. What can limit the growth rate of a population?
- a. immigration
  - b. exponential growth
  - c. carrying capacity
  - d. logistic growth