Warm Up to Science

TEKS-Based Engagement Activities

Grade 5

region4®
Educated Solutions

Reporting Category 4: Organisms and Environments

TEKS

5.9C: The student is expected to predict effects of changes in ecosystems caused by living organisms, including humans, such as the overpopulation of grazers or the building of highways.
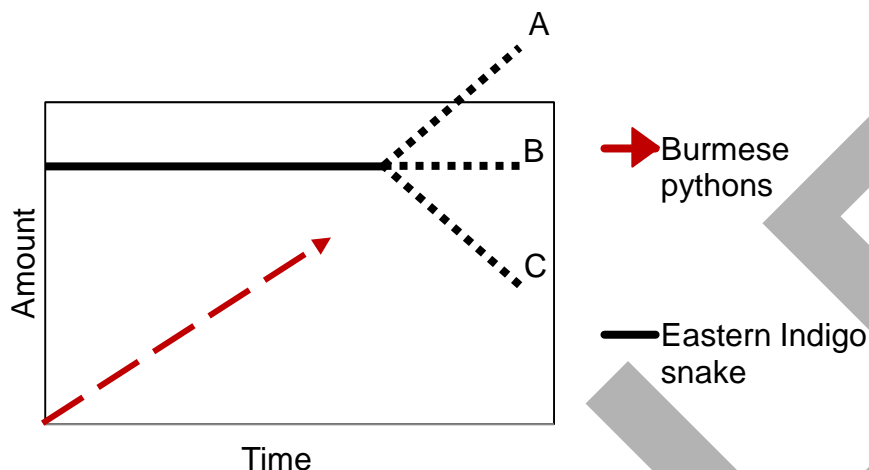
Answer

The Eastern Indigo population would decrease (C) because the pythons eat the same animals that the Eastern Indigo hunts. A lack of food would cause the native species to be hungry, which would cause a decrease in population due to starvation or relocation.

Teacher Notes

It might be necessary to explain the difference between native and non-native to students. A native plant or animal is naturally found in an area. A non-native plant or animal has been introduced to an area in which it is not naturally located. Students begin learning about changes in ecosystems in third grade (TEKS 3.9C).

Burmese pythons are non-native to the Florida Everglades. However, as they grow larger, pet owners release them into the wild because they can no longer care for them. When this happens, the pythons begin competing with other snakes for food.

The Eastern Indigo snake is native to the Everglades. With the introduction of pythons, will the Eastern Indigo population increase (A), stay the same (B), or decrease (C)?
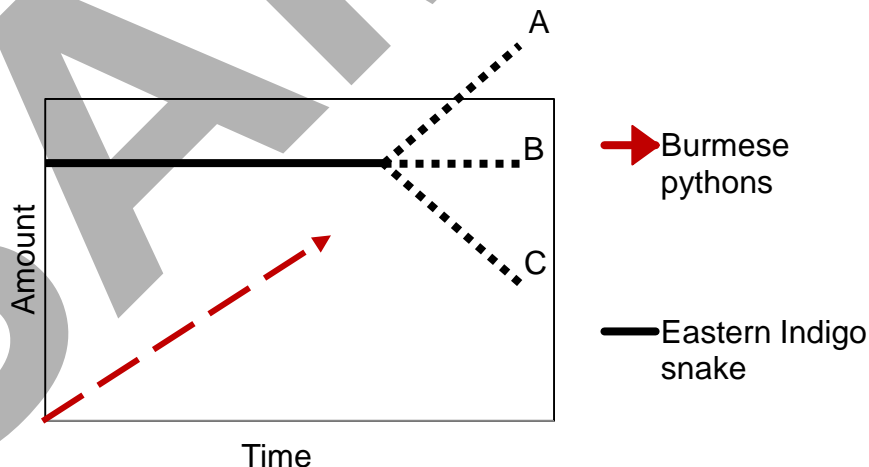
Explain your reasoning. How did you decide and why?

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