Keystone Species Research:

**Species:**

Non-Predator Types:

1. Bison (Bison bison),
2. Kangaroo rats (Dipodymys spp.)
3. Beavers (Castor Canadensis) = Keystone engineer
4. Elephants
5. Rufus Hummingbird
6. Black Salamander

Plant species

1. Quaking aspen (Populus tremuloides).

Predator Species:

1. *Pisaster* Seastar
2. Salmon

Do not choose:

1. Wolves – In Yellowstone National Park
2. Sea Otters
3. Prairie dog – Keystone engineer

**Why you care about Keystone Species:**

Conservation efforts tend to focus on the preservation of keystone species to stabilize the entire biological community, as the loss or decline of a keystone species within an ecosystem has serious consequences for the continued productivity, structure and function of the ecosystem.

* **Predatory** keystone species, such as wolves, play an important part in regulating the growth of subdominant prey species.
* **Non-predatory** keystone species, such as salmon, play roles in bringing important nutrients to a particular niche or community that cannot be easily gotten elsewhere.

**Goal:**

Create a food web and show/explain how your species is a keystone species .

**Steps:**

1. Do some research on your species (answer questions on reverse side)
2. Get pics (best ones are line drawings of the species) about 2”X2”
3. Cut out the species out.

**Research:**

1. **What is the species?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Common Name** | **Scientific Name** |
|  |  |

1. **Draw the food web/species interactions:**
2. **What kind of keystone species is it? (Circle one)**

Predator Non-Predator Prey Modifier/Engineer Host

 - Watch: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_IWw8Ruz8Uo>

1. **What happens to the ecosystem if this species is removed?**
2. **Has it ever been removed before? Explain what caused it to be removed and ultimately what happened to the ecosystem.**