



Grades 9–12

3.1.9-12.L Life Science: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

Students who demonstrate understanding can use mathematical representations to support and revise explanations based on evidence about factors affecting biodiversity and populations in ecosystems of different scales.

Clarifying Statement: Examples of mathematical representations include finding the average, determining trends, and using graphical comparisons of multiple sets of data.

Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to provided data.

Science and Engineering Practices (SEP)	Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCI)	Crosscutting Concepts (CCC)
<p>Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking Mathematical and computational thinking in 9–12 builds on K–8 experiences and progresses to using algebraic thinking and analysis, a range of linear and nonlinear functions including trigonometric functions, exponentials and logarithms, and computational tools for statistical analysis to analyze, represent, and model data. Simple computational simulations are created and used based on mathematical models of basic assumptions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use mathematical representations of phenomena or design solutions to support and revise explanations. <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Connections to Nature of Science</i></p> <p>Scientific Knowledge is Open to Revision in Light of New Evidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most scientific knowledge is quite durable, but is, in principle, subject to change based on new evidence and/or reinterpretation of existing evidence. 	<p>LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecosystems have carrying capacities, which are limits to the numbers of organisms and populations they can support. These limits result from such factors as the availability of living and nonliving resources and from such challenges such as predation, competition, and disease. Organisms would have the capacity to produce populations of great size were it not for the fact that environments and resources are finite. This fundamental tension affects the abundance (number of individuals) of species in any given ecosystem. <p>LS2.C: Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A complex set of interactions within an ecosystem can keep its numbers and types of organisms relatively constant over long periods of time under stable conditions. If a modest biological or physical disturbance to an ecosystem occurs, it may return to its more or less original status (i.e., the ecosystem is resilient), as opposed to becoming a very different ecosystem. Extreme fluctuations in conditions or the size of any population, however, can challenge the functioning of ecosystems in terms of resources and habitat availability. 	<p>Scale Proportion and Quantity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using the concept of orders of magnitude allows one to understand how a model at one scale relates to a model at another scale.



Pennsylvania Context: Examples of Pennsylvania context include but are not limited to possible local connections to Pennsylvania native plants and wildlife populations, and to invasive species, such as white-tailed deer, zebra mussels, lanternfly, garlic mustard, and ginkgo plants.

PA Career Ready Skills: Evaluate consequences from a personal, and civic perspective to inform decision-making.

Connections to Other Standards Content and Practices

Standard Source	Possible Connections to Other Standard(s) or Practice(s)
Agriculture (AFNR)	CS.02.02.01.a: Identify and summarize the components within AFNR systems (e.g., Animal Systems: health, nutrition, genetics, etc.; Natural Resources Systems: soil, water, etc.).
Science, Environmental Literacy and Sustainability (NAAEE)	9-12 Strand 2.1.B. Earth's living systems: Learners describe basic population dynamics, genetic mechanisms behind biological evolution, and the importance of diversity in living systems. They explain how changes in the hydrosphere, atmosphere, and geosphere affect the biosphere. They describe how human sustainability is dependent on the biosphere. 9-12 Strand 3.1.B. Sorting out the consequences of issues: Learners evaluate the consequences of a broad range of environmental changes, conditions, and issues on environmental quality and long-term sustainability. They identify environmental justice and social equity implications.
PA Core Standards: ELA	CC.3.5.9-12.A: Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to the precise details of explanations or descriptions. CC.3.5.11-12.A: Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to important distinctions the author makes and to any gaps or inconsistencies in the account. CC.3.6.9-12.B: Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/experiments, or technical processes.
PA Core Standards and Practices: Math	MP.2: Reason abstractly and quantitatively. MP.4: Model with mathematics. CC.2.1.HS.F.3: Apply quantitative reasoning to choose and interpret units and scales in formulas, graphs, and data display. CC.2.1.HS.F.4: Use units as a way to understand problems and to guide the solution of multistep problems. CC.2.1.HS.F.5: Choose a level of accuracy appropriate to limitations on measurement when reporting quantities.
PA Standards: Social Studies	7.2.12.A: Analyze the physical characteristics of places and regions, including the interrelationships among the components of Earth's physical systems.
Educational Technology (ISTE)	1.3. Knowledge Constructor: Students critically curate a variety of resources using digital tools to construct knowledge, produce creative artifacts and make meaningful learning experiences for themselves and others.
Technology and Engineering (ITEEA)	STEL-10: Assess how similarities and differences among scientific, mathematical, engineering, and technological knowledge and skills contributed to the design of a product or system.