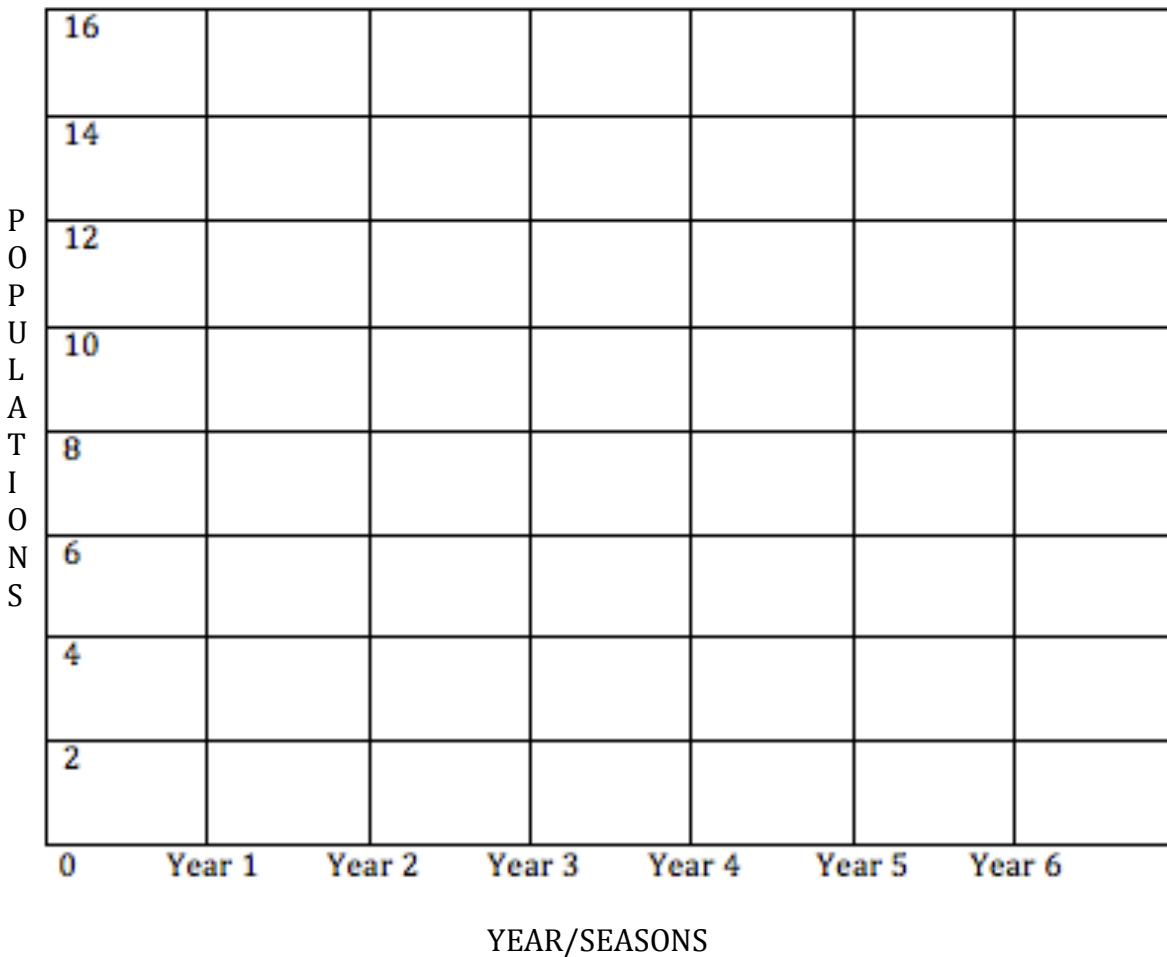


OWLS, MICE, & SEEDS



Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think the populations went up and down so much?
- Do the owls influence the mouse population?
- Do the mice influence the seed population?
- Do the seeds influence the owl population?
- In what ways do plants and animals influence each other within an ecosystem?
- Are people a part of that system?

Dynamic equilibrium is a term used to describe a state of balance. At IslandWood, we use this term when referring to ecosystems and populations. As an animal population or plant population continues to grow, there are other factors (consumers, producers, weather, etc.) that keep these numbers at a healthy level for the ecosystem. The population of one particular organism may rise and fall, and in turn this may affect the population of another organism.