

Activity B:
Bears

Get the Gizmo ready:

- Click **Reset**.
- Select the FOREST tab.



Question: How do bears get the nutrients they need to live?

1. Explore: Using the Gizmo, try to figure out what bears depend on for nutrition.
2. Form hypothesis: How do bears get the energy and nutrients they need? _____

3. Predict: Based on your hypothesis, which population(s) would be hurt if bears were added?

4. Test: Click **Reset**. Click **Advance year** a couple times. Add as many bears to the forest as possible. Then go forward a couple more years. Select the DATA tab. Which populations were hurt by adding bears?

5. Classify: Are bears producers or consumers? Explain your reasoning. _____

6. Draw conclusions: An organism that breaks down organic matter into simpler materials (like carbon dioxide) is called a **decomposer**. Decomposers absorb nutrients from living things or the organic matter they leave behind. They do not need to kill to get their food.

Do your results suggest bears are decomposers? Explain your reasoning. _____

7. Challenge: Using the Gizmo, figure out what bears prefer to eat most. Write your results and reasoning in your notebook or on the back of this sheet.