GRAPHING THE PREDATOR-PREY RELATIONSHIP

Name:_____

Part 1: The Meaning & Predicting:

Give a description for each of the following:

Predator = an animal that hunts and kills another animal for food/energy.

Prey = an animal being hunted + eaten by another animal.

Make predictions for the following situations:

If the number of predators increases, the prey will decrease *because:* they have a lot of organisms hunting them.

If the number of predators decreases, the prey will increase *because:* they aren't being hunted as much.

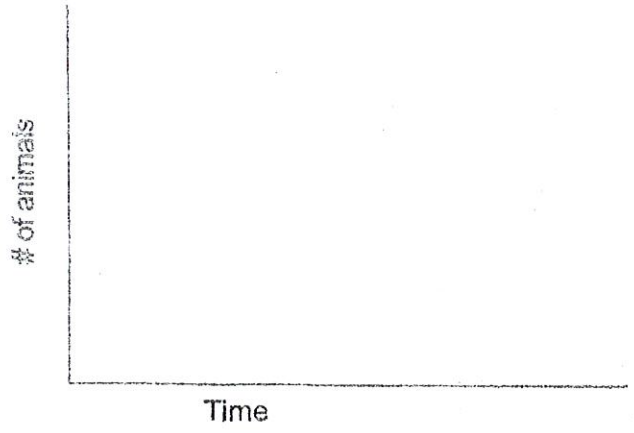
If the number of prey increases, the predators will increase *because:* they have a lot of food available.

If the number of prey decreases, the predators will decrease *because:* they have less food available

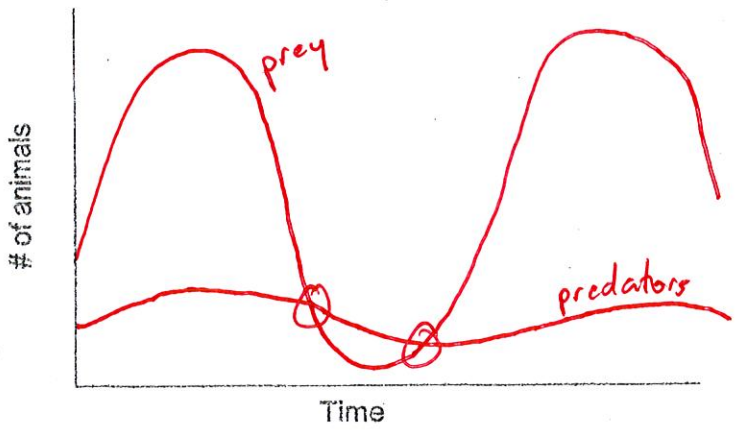
Part 2: The Math:

Predict what a predator-prey graph will look like (Hint: use two lines; one for each animal). Revise your prediction, if necessary

My Prediction



Actual Graph



Part 3: Making Connections

*How do these graphs compare to your "Oh Deer" graph? Are there similarities? Differences? Explain.

*How do fluctuations (ups and downs) in the predator and prey numbers affect the food chain?

*Can the predator and prey numbers be high at the same time? Explain.

*Can the predator and prey numbers be low at the same time? Explain.

Part 5: Putting it all together:

Make a conclusion!