

SUGGESTED SKILL

 *Data Analysis*

5.E

Explain what the data implies or illustrates about environmental issues.



AVAILABLE RESOURCES

- Classroom Resource > [AP Environmental Science Teacher's Guide](#)

TOPIC 3.4

Carrying Capacity

Required Course Content

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

ERT-3

Populations change over time in reaction to a variety of factors.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

ERT-3.D

Describe carrying capacity.

ERT-3.E

Describe the impact of carrying capacity on ecosystems.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

ERT-3.D.1

When a population exceeds its carrying capacity (carrying capacity can be denoted as K), overshoot occurs. There are environmental impacts of population overshoot, including resource depletion.

ERT-3.E.1

A major ecological effect of population overshoot is dieback of the population (often severe to catastrophic) because the lack of available resources leads to famine, disease, and/or conflict.