Population task

Buzz words: predator, prey, habitat, resources, competition, scarcity

Imagine a rabbit population living in an area of grassland. What factors will affect the size of the population?

For each statement say why the result would be either:

* factors that would increase the rabbit population
* factors that would decrease the rabbit population

Are there any statements that you thought could be put into either pile?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **buzzard moves**  **into area** | **grassland is built**  **on by developers** | **fox population**  **moves away** |
| **sheep introduced to grassland** | **new bacterial disease affects foxes** | **large area of grassland**  **is used to farm**  **salad crops** |
| **grass cover scorched**  **by high temperatures** | **increase in number of other small herbivores** | **deadly myxomatosis**  **virus enters rabbit**  **population** |
| **new female rabbits**  **enter area** | **grassland ploughed** | **decrease in**  **stoat numbers** |
| **increase in plant that**  **is toxic to rabbits** | **overgrazing of**  **grassland**  **by rabbits** | **rabbit population**  **develops resistance to**  **myxomatosis virus** |