Chapter 8 Section 1
Study Sheet

1. How would a scientist study a population of living things (elephants for example)?

2. What is a population?

3. What defines or separated one population from another?

4. The word population refers not only to the group in general but also to what?

5. What are the three ways we describe populations?

6. What is density?

7. What is dispersion?

8. What are the three ways a population can be dispersed?

9. How do we calculate the change in a population over time?

10. What causes the growth rate of a population to change?

11. What has to happen for a population to have a zero growth rate?

12. What keeps populations from continually growing?

13. What is a “biotic potential”?

14. What is “reproductive potential”?

15. What are three ways the reproductive potential of a species can increase?

16. What is “generation time”?

17. When does exponential growth occur in nature?

18. Give me an example of a living organism growing exponentially.

19. What is the “carrying capacity” of a population?

20. How could you estimate the carrying capacity of a population?

21. Explain how the introduction of rabbits to Australia is a perfect example of an organism finding it’s carrying capacity.

22. When does an organism reach its carrying capacity?

23. Instead of competing directly for resources what are other ways members of a species can compete?

24. What is a territory?

25. What makes a territory valuable?

26. Explain density dependent and density independent population regulation and give an example of each.