

CHAPTER 3	Thought Lab 3.1 Planning for Your Field Study Answer Key	BLM 3.1.4A
ANSWER KEY		

Answer to Analysis Question

1. You should demonstrate clear understanding of the difference between the terms population, community, and ecosystem, as well as be able to express how these terms are interrelated. The following sample answer describes how a population of pike fit into the Great Slave Lake ecosystem:

Any species in Great Slave Lake is part of a larger population. For example, an individual pike belongs to the population of all pike in the lake. In turn, the pike population interacts with other populations of different species including other fish, algae, plankton, etc., through predator-prey relationships and competition. These lake communities, coupled with the abiotic factors of the lake, make up the Great Slave Lake ecosystem.