

**Instructions:** Read the following passage of descriptive scientific writing carefully, and then write your own paraphrase (100-150 words) and summary (50) in the space below. Focus on retaining the key ideas of the passage without plagiarizing. Do not include references to any sources other than Fernandez in your paraphrase or summary. Once you have completed the exercise, exchange your paper with another student and respond to each other's work (using the information presented by the Writing Instructor in the first part of tutorial). We will provide you with an example of a good summary and paraphrase at the end of class.

**Original:** The European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) is a prey species of key importance in Mediterranean ecosystems. It constitutes the diet of more than 30 predators in southern Europe, and also exerts a strong influence on the habitats of other species through vegetation consumption, seed dispersal and burrowing (Delibes and Hiraldo 1981; Soriguer 1986; Gomez-Sal et al. 1999). During the last five decades, the species has suffered widespread population collapses throughout the Mediterranean as a result of two different epidemics: myxomatosis and Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease, RHD (Thompson and King 1994; Villafuerte et al. 1995). This resulted in the extinction of many populations of Mediterranean predators, such as the critically endangered Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) and the Spanish Imperial Eagle (*Aquila adalberti*) (Rodriguez and Delibes 1992; Ferrer 1993). Consequently, strong conservation concerns have arisen regarding the identification of current broad-scale patterns in European rabbit abundance and how they are related to the distribution of resources.

Source: Fernandez, Nestor. Spatial patterns in European rabbit abundance after a population collapse. *Landscape Ecology* (2005) 20:897–910.

**Paraphrase:** Fernandez (2005) observes that the European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) is prey for over 30 different predators in the Mediterranean, and argues that it influences the habitats of other species through activities such as burrowing, eating vegetation, and dispersing seeds. He also notes that two epidemics, myxomatosis and Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease, have dramatically reduced the population of this species over the last fifty years, and so have indirectly contributed to the extinction of other Mediterranean predators, including the “critically endangered” (898) Iberian lynx and Spanish Imperial Eagle. These events, concludes Fernandez, have led conservationists to focus on identifying “current broad-scale patterns in European rabbit abundance” (898) and their relation to other resources and their distribution.

**Summary:** Fernandez (2005) argues that the causal relationship between the population collapse of the European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and the extinction of other predators in the Mediterranean has raised concerns about the need to identify patterns in European rabbit populations and consider how these might affect other resources.