

Name _____ **Organization of Text**



The Decline of the Moose

Moose, one of the most majestic and beautiful of forest creatures, has been experiencing a population decrease in Minnesota, Montana, Wyoming and other parts of the Rocky Mountains. Although no longer on the endangered species list as of April 2014, moose populations do appear to be in trouble due largely to an increase in average global temperatures that are having three profound effects.

The first effect of warmer temperatures is the increase in ticks. As many as 150,000 ticks can infect a single moose, weakening the huge animal, causing it to become anemic and, eventually, emaciated. The ticks also itch, so the moose scratches, often rubbing off entire tracts of their fur. The reason that the ticks are so much worse than they have been in the past is because warmer winters are allowing the ticks to survive and multiply, rather than experiencing an annual die-off when the cold weather sets in.

Other pests are also more prolific due to the warming. For example, In Minnesota, moose are contracting brain worms and liver flukes. Both of these pests, that spend part of their life cycles in snails, thrive in warm, moist environments.

Finally, global warming itself is probably contributing to the decline of the moose, who is suited for cold weather. Temperatures above 23 degrees Fahrenheit require them to spend extra energy in order to keep cool, which depletes their energy, making them more vulnerable.

What can be done to save the moose? Sadly, probably not much. “There’s no question that climate plays a huge part in this,” says Kristine Rines, a wildlife biologist and moose project leader for the state’s Fish and Game Department. “If we had winters that lasted as long as they used to, we might not be having this conversation.”

DIRECTIONS: Answer the questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. How is this text organized?
2. What are the three major sections of the text? Discuss how each contributes to the development of the whole.
