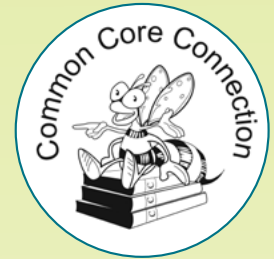


# FACTivity



## Time Needed

One class period

## Materials

- Harvest Recording Activity Sheet
- Writing utensil
- Large quantity of an item that students can count such as pretzel sticks or similar food items, paper clips, or strips of paper

## FACTivity Background

In the research article presented in this monograph, you learned about how and why plants are harvested from forests, as well as how it can impact the plant's population size. In this FACTivity, you will learn what happens when something is overharvested and why sustainable harvesting is important.

### The questions you will answer in this FACTivity are:

How many harvesting cycles does it take for the black cohosh population to drop below zero? What are some things that could have been done differently to keep the black cohosh population healthy, while still harvesting some of the plants?

## FACTivity Methods

Your group will be provided with a copy of the Harvest Recording Activity Sheet, a writing utensil, and some pretzels (or other item that teacher provides). The pretzels or other item provided represent individual plants. As a group, assign someone to be the record keeper on the activity sheet, one to two people that will harvest plants, and one person to be a staff member from the local department of wildlife conservation.

You are starting with a black cohosh population of 100 plants. After each harvest, the staff member from the local department of wildlife conservation will add four new plants because they are trying to keep the plant population stable. Follow the directions each time you harvest.

After you have finished all of the harvests and completed the activity sheet as a group, answer the four followup questions.

**Harvest 1:** Your health food company just found this plant and is harvesting a few of the plants to see if consumers like it. Take 2 plants.

**Harvest 2:** Your health food company discovered that consumers like the plant for medicinal uses, so they double the amount they harvest. Take 4 plants.

**Harvest 3:** Other health food companies have found out about this plant. They start to harvest some plants. Take 8 plants.

**Harvest 4:** Demand from consumers stays stable. Take 8 plants.

**Harvest 5:** Consumer demand starts to grow for the plant because of a commercial about the plant's healthy benefits. Take 16 plants.

**Harvest 6:** Consumer demand stays high. Take 16 plants.

**Harvest 7:** New technology has provided your health food company with a way to harvest that increases the number of plants that can be taken at one time. Take 32 plants.

# Harvest Recording Sheet

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Population Starting With	Number Added to the Population	Number Taken from the Population	Total Population
100	4	2	102
102			

1. How many harvests did it take before the population of black cohosh was gone?

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2. What are some things that could have been done differently to help the black cohosh population become more stable? Brainstorm some ideas below.

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3. What are some other examples of things that are overharvested or could be in danger of overharvesting?

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4. What are some ways you could make people aware of harvesting sustainably?

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