FOR STUDENTS

Turkey Population Data Sheet 1

In 1935, Wyoming biologists released 46 wild turkeys.

1. Using the assumptions and data in Chart A, compute the size of the turkey population for 5 years.

Assumptions:

- None of the turkeys left the general area in the first 5 years.
- There was no disease or shortage of habitat that limited the population.
- There were equal numbers of males and females released.
- All turkeys that were released were 1 year old and sexually mature.
- All sexually mature females hatched a clutch of 10 eggs each year.
- No turkeys reproduced until they had completed more than 1 year of life.
- All turkeys died during the winter after their fifth year of life (after hatching their fourth clutch).
- There are equal numbers of males and females in each hatch.

Chart A

Year	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Beginning population	46	276	506			
2. – 5-year-olds	0	0	0	0	46	230
3. – last year's hatch (*not yet breeding*)	0	230	230			
4. = Breeding population	46	46	276			
5. Breeding pairs (#4 ÷ 2)	23	23				
6. Offspring (#5 x 10 eggs/clutch)	230	230				
+ breeding population (#4)	46	46				
+ last year's hatch (#3)	0	230				
7. = Total population	276	506				

2. Once the data table has been completed, graph the total turkey population for Years 1-6. Be sure to appropriately label the axes. What type of population growth curve does the data reflect?