



Rat Booms in Warming Cities

Description

A study in 16 big cities found that rat populations are growing where it's getting warmer the fastest. Researchers checked complaints about rats in cities to understand how populations are changing.

Data from 13 US cities, Tokyo, Amsterdam, and Toronto showed rat numbers dropping in New Orleans, Louisville, and Tokyo. The number stayed the same in Dallas and St. Louis, but went up in other cities, especially in Washington DC, San Francisco, Toronto, New York, and Amsterdam.

The study linked rising rat numbers to higher temperatures, more urban areas, and crowded human populations. Cold cities see fewer rats in winter and more in summer, so as the planet warms, rat populations go up too.

Having more rats in cities means a bigger risk of diseases like leptospirosis. Cities need to control rat numbers by making it harder for them to find food. New York is already trying this out in some areas, and it's making a difference.

This study highlights the need for cities to act to handle rat populations as the Earth gets warmer.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Populations** /ˌpɒp.jəˈleɪ.ʃənz/ (noun): The number of inhabitants in a particular area or group.
2. **Rising** /ˈraɪ.zɪŋ/ (adjective): Increasing in amount number or rate.
3. **Urban** /ˈɜː.bən/ (adjective): Related to a city or town.
4. **Leptospirosis** /ˌlɛp.təʊ.spɪˈrəʊ.sɪs/ (noun): A bacterial disease that can cause severe health issues.
5. **Control** /kənˈtrəʊl/ (verb): To manage or regulate the behavior or actions of something.
6. **Highlight** /ˈhaɪ.laɪt/ (verb): To make something stand out or to emphasize its importance.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What did researchers check to understand how rat populations are changing in cities?
Option: Weather patterns



- Option: Complaints about rats
- Option: Population density
- Option: Food availability

2. Which cities showed a drop in rat numbers according to the study?

- Option: New Orleans, Louisville, and Tokyo
- Option: Washington DC, San Francisco, and Toronto
- Option: Dallas and St. Louis
- Option: New York and Amsterdam

3. What factors were linked to the rising rat numbers in cities?

- Option: Decreasing urban areas
- Option: Lower temperatures
- Option: More urban areas and higher temperatures
- Option: Less crowded human populations

4. What disease risk increases with higher rat populations in cities?

- Option: H1N1
- Option: Leptospirosis
- Option: Cholera
- Option: Malaria

5. What is one method suggested to control rat numbers in cities?

- Option: Providing more food sources
- Option: Encouraging rat reproduction
- Option: Making it harder for rats to find food
- Option: Creating more urban areas

6. Which city is already trying to control rat numbers according to the study?

- Option: Washington DC
- Option: New York
- Option: San Francisco
- Option: Dallas

True-False

7. Rat populations in cities are not affected by temperature changes.



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8. Cold cities tend to have more rats in summer than in winter.
9. The study found that rat populations decreased in every city except for New York and Amsterdam.
10. Leptospirosis is a disease commonly associated with high rat populations.
11. Cities are not required to take action to manage rat populations as the Earth warms.
12. New Orleans, Louisville, and Tokyo are among the cities where rat numbers went up according to the study.

Gap-Fill

13. Rat populations in cities are growing where it's getting _____ the fastest.
14. The number of rats stayed the same in Dallas and _____.
15. As the planet warms, rat populations go up due to higher temperatures, more urban areas, and crowded _____ populations.
16. Cities need to control rat numbers by making it harder for them to find _____.
17. New York is already taking steps to control rat numbers in some areas, and it's showing _____.
18. This study highlights the need for cities to act to handle rat populations as the Earth gets _____.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Complaints about rats 2. New Orleans, Louisville, and Tokyo 3. More urban areas and higher temperatures 4. Leptospirosis 5. Making it harder for rats to find food 6. New York

True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. warmer 14. St. Louis 15. human 16. food 17. a difference



Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which term refers to groups of living organisms capable of interbreeding?
Option: Animals
Option: Populations
Option: Ecosystems
Option: Habitats
2. What legal right does an author have to control the use of their work?
Option: Patent
Option: Trademark
Option: Fair use
Option: Copyright
3. A prolonged public dispute or debate is known as:
Option: Agreement
Option: Consensus
Option: Controversy
Option: Concord
4. False or inaccurate information that is spread regardless of intent to deceive is:
Option: Information
Option: Disinformation
Option: Misinformation
Option: Propaganda
5. Speed greater than that of sound is termed as:
Option: Hypersonic
Option: Sonic
Option: Transonic
Option: Supersonic
6. The application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes is called:
Option: Theology
Option: Technology
Option: Biology
Option: Meteorology
7. Individuals who freely offer to take part in a task or participate voluntarily are known as:



- Option: Candidates
- Option: Volunteers
- Option: Recruits
- Option: Interns

8. The ratio of the speed of an object to the speed of sound in the surrounding medium is known as:

- Option: Velocity
- Option: Momentum
- Option: Mach
- Option: Acceleration

9. Involving a scientific experiment or a trial is referred to as:

- Option: Theoretical
- Option: Practical
- Option: Experimental
- Option: Hypothetical

10. The least or smallest amount possible is called the:

- Option: Maximum
- Option: Average
- Option: Minimum
- Option: Optimal

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The _____ temperature of the Earth is a key concern for environmentalists.
12. Many people prefer the _____ lifestyle for its convenience and access to amenities.
13. During the presentation the speaker will _____ the key points of the research findings.
14. She _____ her gratitude for the support she received during a difficult time.
15. The two companies _____ on a joint project to develop a new product.
16. A healthy diet _____ the body's nutritional needs to maintain well-being.
17. The government agency acts as a _____ overseeing the safety of various industries.



18. The company offers _____ services tailored to each individual customer.
19. His comments were deemed _____ to the topic of discussion.
20. Health _____ are often addressed through public awareness campaigns.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The technology allows users to manage or direct the operation of devices or systems.
22. The company faced a period of extreme confusion and instability due to internal conflicts.
23. A bacterial infection that can be transmitted to humans through water contaminated by animal urine.
24. The suppression or prohibition of any parts of books films news etc. that are considered obscene politically unacceptable or a threat to security.
25. A process or set of rules to be followed in calculations or other problem-solving operations especially by a computer.
26. A category of artistic composition characterized by similarities in form style or subject matter.
27. Something that blocks the way or prevents movement or access.
28. Actors often use makeup and costumes to imitate or copy the behavior of famous personalities.
29. The process of verifying the accuracy and truthfulness of claims and statements made in public discourse.
30. Individuals who freely offer to take part in a task or participate voluntarily are known as.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Populations 2. Copyright 3. Controversy 4. Misinformation 5. Supersonic 6. Technology 7. Volunteers 8. Mach 9. Experimental 10. Minimum

Gap-Fill: 11. Rising 12. Urban 13. Highlight 14. Expressed 15. Cooperated 16. Balances 17. Regulator 18. Personalized 19. Unrelated 20. Concerns

Matching sentence: 1. Control 2. Turmoil 3. Leptospirosis 4. Censorship 5. Algorithm 6. Genre 7. Barrier 8. Mimics 9. Fact-checking 10. Volunteers

CATEGORY



1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL2

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