

# Forest Facts



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Read the information and questions below then write your answers on the back of this sheet.

- 1.** One hundred and fifty years ago, California forests were more “open” than they are today. What does that mean?
- 2.** In some places, where there used to be twenty trees per acre of land, now there are more than three hundred trees. How healthy do you think those three hundred trees are? What could you do to make them healthier?
- 3.** Overcrowding in the forest makes trees unhealthy. They have to compete too heavily for sun, food, and water. This competition weakens them. They cannot resist wildfires, insects, and disease. What does competition mean? Can you think of other examples where too much competition is unhealthy?
- 4.** Dead and dying trees produce great amounts of fuel which feeds wildfires. These fires rage out of control and are hard to stop. Describe what happens in a wildfire to all the elements of this ecological community.
- 5.** Raging wildfires get so hot that they bake the “biota” out of the soil. If “bio” means life, what do you think “biota” means? What other “bio” words can you think of?
- 6.** How are prescribed burns and wildfires different? How can prescribed burns be beneficial?

