

Debate

Deer are herbivores that feed on grass, leaves, young growing trees and the bark of trees. There are three wild species in Ireland.



Red Deer

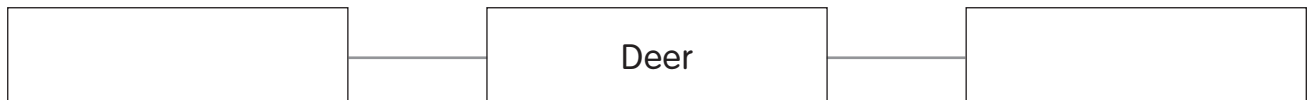


Fallow Deer



Sika Deer

Make two food chains with deer.



What carnivores feed on deer in Ireland? _____

Wolves are carnivores on deer but they have been extinct in Ireland since the 1700s.

What is the result of deer having no natural predator? _____

What controls the deer population in Ireland? _____

How do uncontrolled numbers of deer affect the following environments:

Native oak woodland? _____

Farmland near deer upland territory? _____

Enclosed parkland where a deer herd is kept? _____

So deer in Ireland have to be managed. But how?

Is hunting a good way to control deer numbers? _____

What other, more effective, conservation measures could be used? _____

Recently it was reported that a 4th species of deer – the Muntjac Deer – has been

introduced to Ireland. Is this good or bad? _____ Why? _____