Student Sheet (Lab B) Name_____

Title: What's the Limit?

Introduction: All living things need several essential substances or conditions to stay alive. A limiting factor is one that if it is in short supply it will limit a population from growing or even may prevent it from existing. How long can a human go without air, water or food? Fortunately, most of us never have to find out by experience what the answer to that question is. In this activity, you will experiment with radishes to see what factors limit their growth and survival.

Materials: 20 radish seeds, plastic cups, graduated cylinders, soil, other:

Procedures:

1. With your group, decide what question you wish to ask about limiting factors for the radishes. Share the question with your teacher and the class.

2. Once your question has been approved, write a series of steps you will use to answer it, the procedures. Include a way to record your data.

3. Observe the radishes over the next two weeks, record your observations.

Procedures:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Data:

Analysis:

1. Compare your results with your classmates. What factors seemed to be necessary for the healthy growth of radishes?

2. Use the term “limiting factor” in a sentence describing the outcome of this lab:

3. What is an example of an environment where water is a limiting factor?

4. What is an example of an environment where water is not a limiting factor?

5. If you were going to do this again, how would you change your experiment?

Conclusion: