



# Trees on the Serengeti

Image A (1986)



Image B (1991)



### Image C (2011)



#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The **Serengeti** is a large ecosystem in Tanzania, Africa, known for its diversity of animals. It includes Serengeti National Park. Tony Sinclair, a researcher studying the park, photographed these images there over the course of 25 years. Image A was taken in 1986, Image B was taken in 1991, and Image C was taken in 2011.

Blue **wildebeest** (a kind of antelope related to cattle, goats, and sheep) are one of the species found in the Serengeti. Wildebeest are **herbivores**, meaning they eat plants. When Sinclair started researching the park in the 1960s, the population of wildebeest was relatively low because of a disease. In later years, the disease disappeared, allowing the population to grow to its present size of about 1.3 million wildebeest. Based on your observations of these images, did the tree population increase or decrease as the wildebeest population grew?