# Faunal Analysis Answer Key

**Question 1)** You find that many of the bones are from goats. You identify both left femurs (top) and right femurs (bottom). Use these bones to find the NISP and MNI values. Explain why these numbers differ.

***Answer****: NISP: NISP is the total bone count of 18.*

*MNI: There are 10 right femurs. Therefore there must have been at least 10 different goats.*

**Question 2)** Based on the species you see, what do you think the environment around the site looked like? How does that information help you answer your research question?

***Answer****: Fish and turtle indicate that there is a body of water nearby. Deer, fox, and rabbit may indicate woods. Rabbits along with mice and rats may also indicate fields or meadows. The remaining animals were domesticated on the site.*

*This means that there were multiple ways that people living at this site could have obtained their food. Their options include hunting and fishing, as well as raising their own animals.*

**Question 3)** Identify the five species with the highest NISP values. Were any of these species not used for food? Based on your results, what do you think was the main method people at this site used to obtain their food?

***Answer****: The top five species are turtles, mice, fish, rabbits, and goats. Mice should be disregarded because they died naturally on the site rather than being used for food. These results indicate that site occupants were relying more on fishing and hunting than on domesticated animals.*

Make a second list of the five species with the highest MNI values. Compare these results to the NISP values. Do any species appear on both lists? How does the MNI result change your original interpretations?

***Answer:*** *Mice, pigs, goats, chicken, and fish have the highest MNI values. Mice, goats, and fish all had high NISP values. However, these results indicate that individuals were relying more on domesticated animals than those they obtained through hunting or fishing.*

What other evidence might archeologists find that would help decide which interpretation was more accurate? Be creative.

***Answer****: Answers will vary. Specific artifacts may include bullets, gunflints, fish hooks, and other tools. Oral histories could be conducted with people still living on the site or their descendants. Historical documents such as plantation records, diaries, and letters could be consulted. Standing buildings such as barns and chicken coops may also provide evidence.*