# **CHAPTER 6 - POPULATION AND COMMUNITY ECOLOGY**

## PREPARING TO DO THE MATH

#### **PROBLEM:**

"You decide to invest \$1000 in a savings account. Your investment will grow at a rate of 10% each year. Assuming that you reinvest the interest each year, how much money will you have in 30 years?" Here is a spreadsheet to show the growth of the investment. You may use a spreadsheet program and print it also.

Year	Investment	Interest	Interest gained

Make a graph of the data:

The total investment over the 30 year period would be \$\_\_\_\_\_.

NOTE: Please note that a 10% return on investment is very high. Currently most banks will give you a savings account with an annual percentage of 1.5% to 3.0%.

#### **Doubling Time and the Rule of 70**

The doubling time or Rule of 70 is a useful tool for calculating the time it will take for a population (or money) to double. The rule of 70 explains the time periods involved in exponential growth at a constant rate. To find the approximate doubling time of a quantity growing at a given annual percentage, such as 10%, divide 70 by the percentage growth rate. Remember, the Rule of 70 is an approximation, the actual Rule is 69.3. You can use the rule of 70 to approximate.

Calculate the approximate doubling time for the \$1000 investment with an annual percentage rate of 10% (show your work):

Here is an example of a similar AP multiple-choice question to calculate doubling time using the Rule of 70.

**Example:** If the population of rabbits in an ecosystem grows at a rate of approximately 4 percent per year, the number of years required for the rabbit population to double is closest to

a. 4 years	b. 8 years	c. 12 years
d. 17 years	e. 25 years	

### Solution (show your work):