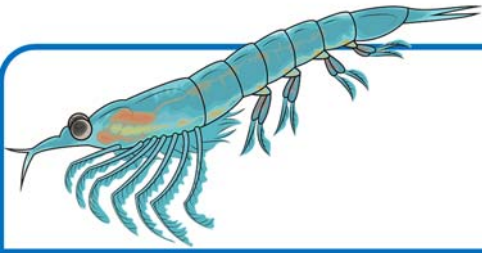


Name _____



Frigid Effects

Directions: Read the mini passage. Then identify the cause of the environmental effect described.

In recent years, scientists have observed a noticeable decline in krill populations across parts of the Southern Ocean. Krill are tiny invertebrates that form the base of the food web, supporting whales, penguins, seals, and many fish species. Researchers have discovered that the amount of sea ice forming each winter has been decreasing. Because krill depend on sea ice for food and shelter during early stages of life, fewer ice-covered areas have left young krill with less protection and fewer resources to survive.

1. What is the environmental effect described in the passage?

2. What is the direct cause of this effect?

3. Explain in your own words how this cause leads to the observed effect.