

Mini-Test 1

Passage I

SOCIAL SCIENCE: This passage is adapted from *Our Vanishing Wild Life* by William T. Hornaday (©1913 by Charles Scribner's Sons).

The preservation of animal and plant life and of the general beauty of nature is one of the foremost duties of men and women today. It is an imperative duty because it must be performed at once, for otherwise it will be too late. Every possible means of preservation—sentimental, educational, and legislative—must be employed.

The present warning issues with no uncertain sound because this great battle for preservation and conservation cannot be won by gentle tones nor by appeals to the aesthetic instincts of those who have no sense of beauty or enjoyment of nature. It is necessary to sound a loud alarm, to present the facts in very strong language backed up by irrefutable statistics and by photographs that tell no lies, to establish the law, and to enforce it with a bludgeon if needed.

This book is such an alarm. Its forceful pages remind me of the sounding of the great bells in the watchtowers of the cities during the Middle Ages. These bells called the citizens to arms to protect their homes, their liberties, and their happiness. It is undeniable that the welfare and happiness of our own and of all future generations of Americans are at stake in this battle for the preservation of nature against the selfishness, the ignorance, and the cruelty of her destroyers.

We no longer destroy great works of art. They are treasured and regarded as priceless, but we have yet to attain the state of civilization in which the destruction of a glorious work of nature—whether it be a cliff, a forest, or a species of mammal or bird—is regarded with equal abhorrence. The whole earth is a poorer place to live in when a colony of exquisite egrets or birds of paradise is destroyed so their plumes may decorate the hat of some lady of fashion and ultimately find their way into the rubbish heap. The people of all the New England states are poorer when ignorant residents destroy the robins and other songbirds of the North for a mess of pottage.

Travels through Europe, as well as over a large part of the North American continent, have convinced me that nowhere is nature being destroyed so rapidly as in the United States. Except within our conservation areas, an earthly paradise is being turned into an earthly hades; it is neither savages nor primitive men who are doing this but men and women who boast of their civilization. Air and water are polluted, rivers and streams serve as sewers and dumping grounds, forests are swept away, and fish

are driven from the streams. Many birds are becoming extinct, and certain mammals are on the verge of extermination. Vulgar advertisements hide the landscape, and in all that disfigures the wonderful heritage of nature's beauty today, we Americans are in the lead.

Fortunately the tide of destruction is ebbing, and the tide of conservation is coming in. Americans are practical. Like all other northern peoples, they love money and will sacrifice much for it, but they are also full of idealism and moral and spiritual energy. The influence of the splendid body of Americans and Canadians, who have turned their best forces of mind and language into literature and into political power for the conservation movement, is becoming stronger every day. Yet we are far from the point where the momentum of conservation is strong enough to arrest and roll back the tide of destruction, and this is especially true with regard to our quickly vanishing animal life.

1. What does the writer intend to accomplish with this passage?
 - A. He wants to shock the reader with gruesome facts about the destruction of wildlife.
 - B. He wants to introduce the reader to the concept of conserving wildlife.
 - C. He wants to incite fear in the reader.
 - D. He wants to provoke activism in the reader to conserve nature.
2. Who does the author blame most for the destruction of wildlife?
 - F. People around the world
 - G. Americans
 - H. Southerners
 - J. The reader

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3. The author specifically mentions all of the following means of preservation EXCEPT:
- A. sentimental.
 - B. legislative.
 - C. economical.
 - D. educational.
4. The author compares nature to:
- F. fine jewelry.
 - G. fine art.
 - H. a feather for fashion wear.
 - J. a great battle.
5. It is implied throughout the entire passage that the author believes:
- A. nature is not just a part of the world, but rather nature is the world.
 - B. living in harmony with nature should be every living being's first priority.
 - C. human beings have an obligation to protect the world in which they live.
 - D. human beings have no capacity for compassion when it comes to nature.
6. The author calls on the reader to take action by:
- F. appealing directly to the opposition.
 - G. traveling to conservation areas to see nature's beauty.
 - H. enforcing legislation about conservation and by raising awareness.
 - J. starting violent protests against people who destroy nature.
7. The author uses lines 37–40 to:
- A. develop context for the rest of the paragraph.
 - B. establish credibility and reliability in his passage.
 - C. boast about all the places he has traveled to.
 - D. encourage the reader to see places all over the world.
8. The overall tone of the passage can best be described as:
- F. angry and anxious.
 - G. defensive and disdainful.
 - H. honest and educational.
 - J. determined and direct.
9. The final paragraph is vital to the passage because:
- A. it describes how conservationism is on the rise but emphasizes there is much work left to be done.
 - B. it explains that humans are smart and innovative.
 - C. it details how far humans still have to go in conservation efforts.
 - D. it shows what efforts have already been made toward conserving nature.
10. The author compares his call for action to:
- F. an alarm clock.
 - G. the sounding of a medieval bell tower.
 - H. a battle.
 - J. an imperative duty.

END OF MINI-TEST ONE

**STOP! DO NOT GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE
UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO.**

