

Today you will do some research on animals and their natural environments. First, you will read an article about wolves in Yellowstone National Park. Then you will read an article titled "The Missing Lynx." As you read these sources, you will gather information and answer questions about animals and their environments so you can write a response.

Read the article "A Howling Success." Then answer questions 1 through 3.

A Howling Success

by Gerry Bishop

- 1 *In Yellowstone National Park, a gray wolf sends its eerie call into the wild. You might say that it's howling for joy.*
- 2 When you look at this photo and think about wolves, what words come to mind? Wild? Scary? Awesome?



- 3 Over time, people have had all kinds of feelings about wolves. Some people have admired and even worshipped them. But far too often, people have feared or really hated them.

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WAITING GAME: As some wolves pace nearby, an elk finds safety in an icy stream. Later, the pack gives up the hunt to bed down, while the elk dashes to safety.

- 11 With so many “meals-on-hoofs”² running around, life was good for the wolves. Plenty of food meant they could raise plenty of pups. During their first year in the wilds of Yellowstone, the wolves gave birth to a grand total of nine little ones.
- 12 Meanwhile, scientists captured 17 more adult wolves in Canada and released them into the park. In the spring of 1997, nine different Yellowstone wolf packs had a total of 67 new pups.
- 13 Scientists were going to capture and bring still more wolves to the park. But, with the wolf numbers already growing so quickly, they decided that this was no longer necessary. The plan was working out even better than they had hoped.

TRACKING THE PACKS

- 14 Over the past 13 years, wolves have been thriving in Yellowstone National Park. Today, more than 170 of them are scattered among 11 packs there. Elsewhere in the West, wolves have made an amazing comeback, too.

²“meals-on-hoofs”—a play on words referring to the program Meals On Wheels, that delivers meals to individuals at home who are unable to purchase or prepare their own meals

1. **Part A**

What is the meaning of the word **thriving** as it is used in paragraph 14 of the article?

- Ⓐ watching
- Ⓑ hunting
- Ⓒ doing well
- Ⓓ having fun

Part B

Which phrase from the article helps the reader understand the meaning of the word **thriving**?

- Ⓐ “. . . scattered among 11 packs . . .” (paragraph 14)
- Ⓑ “Elsewhere in the west . . .” (paragraph 14)
- Ⓒ “. . . made an amazing comeback . . .” (paragraph 14)
- Ⓓ “. . . are the animals truly safe . . .” (paragraph 15)



2. **Part A**

What is a **main** idea of "A Howling Success"?

- Ⓐ Wolves have been missing from Yellowstone for over 70 years.
- Ⓑ Many people feared wolves and wanted them out of the park.
- Ⓒ Wolves helped control the number of elk living in the park.
- Ⓓ Scientists helped increase the number of wolves in Yellowstone.

Part B

Which detail from the article **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ "They worried that the predators would attack their cows, sheep, horses . . ." (paragraph 4)
- Ⓑ "Then things began to change." (paragraph 5)
- Ⓒ ". . . living wolf-free in Yellowstone for many years." (paragraph 10)
- Ⓓ ". . . captured 17 more adult wolves in Canada and released them into the park." (paragraph 12)

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4. **Part A**

Look at the second photograph. What additional information about wolves is learned from the photograph?

- Ⓐ Wolves sometimes howl before eating a meal.
- Ⓑ Elk sometimes enter a river to get away from wolves.
- Ⓒ Wolves follow their prey until the prey gets tired.
- Ⓓ Elk are better swimmers than wolves.

Part B

Which words from the caption **best** support the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ "WAITING GAME . . ."
- Ⓑ ". . . wolves pace nearby . . ."
- Ⓒ ". . . elk finds safety . . ."
- Ⓓ ". . . the pack gives up the hunt . . ."

Read the article "The Missing Lynx" and then answer question 12.

The Missing Lynx

by Kathy Kranking

- 1 Meet the most endangered wild cat in the world—the *Iberian* (eye-BEER-ee-un) *lynx*. A hundred years ago, thousands of these lynxes roamed Spain and nearby Portugal—part of the region that makes up Iberia. But by the 1990s, they were missing from almost the entire area. Fewer than 100 remained in the wild.
- 2 There are a number of reasons Iberian lynxes have become so rare. One reason is that some of the land they need has been taken for farming and building. Another is that roads cut through the lynxes' habitat, so the cats are sometimes hit by cars. Also, people illegally kill them.
- 3 But one of the biggest reasons the lynxes are disappearing has to do with their diet: These cats eat rabbits and little else. Unfortunately, in the last 60 years, rabbits in lynx areas have been almost wiped out by disease and hunting. As the rabbits disappeared, the lynxes have, too. So this is really as much a story about missing rabbits as it is about missing lynxes. To save the lynxes, scientists have to help the rabbits.
- 4 To help the lynxes, scientists came up with a plan to bring back the rabbits. They created "rabitats." (The word is a cross between "rabbit" and "habitats.") In the rabbitats are artificial burrows—tubes that go underground in the way that real rabbits do.
- 5 The scientists put fences around big areas containing the rabbitats. The fences were high enough to keep out rabbit predators such as foxes, mongooses, and boars. But lynxes could easily jump over them. That meant they wouldn't have to compete with other predators for food.
- 6 Finally, the scientists released more than 1,000 rabbits into the rabbitats. The rabbits had been given shots to protect them from disease. With fewer predators and with ready-made burrows to live in, the rabbits would be able to start breeding right away.

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA



SERIAL #

OPERATION: LYNX

- 7 Putting back the rabbits was one part of the puzzle. Putting back the lynxes was another.
- 8 When scientists first saw how endangered the Iberian lynx had become, they took some wild lynxes and brought them to breeding centers. There the animals could mate and have babies in safety. The goal was to have more lynxes to release back into the wild.
- 9 Over the years, the lynxes in the breeding centers multiplied. Finally, it was time to release some of them.

MAKING LYNXES WELCOME

- 10 But before that could happen, scientists needed to work with landowners to stop them from killing lynxes that came onto their properties. The landowners wanted to hunt the rabbits for themselves and didn't want the lynxes to get them first. Now scientists have been able to convince many landowners to allow lynxes to live on their land. The scientists explained to the landowners that lynxes keep other rabbit predators out of their territory. That means there can still be plenty of rabbits for both the lynxes and the hunters. Once many landowners had agreed, the lynxes were released.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

- 11 The lynxes have adapted well to their new home and are even having lots of babies. In addition to releasing captive-bred lynxes, scientists also moved some wild lynxes to new areas where there hadn't been any in a long time.
- 12 After all these efforts to rescue the Iberian lynx, there is some good news. In the last 10 years, the lynx population has tripled! Today more than 300 lynx roam free. There is still a long way to go, but the hope is that these special cats are on the road to recovery.

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5. **Part A**

What is the meaning of the phrase **wiped out** as it is used in paragraph 3 of the article “The Missing Lynx”?

- Ⓐ destroyed
- Ⓑ made very tired
- Ⓒ hidden
- Ⓓ pushed away

Part B

Which word from paragraph 3 helps the reader understand the meaning of **wiped out**?

- Ⓐ biggest
- Ⓑ diet
- Ⓒ disappeared
- Ⓓ areas



Refer to the article "A Howling Success" and the article "The Missing Lynx." Then answer questions 13 and 14.

6. **Part A**

Which statement describes an important point found in **both** articles?

- Ⓐ Scientists brought in smaller animals to help feed the larger animals.
- Ⓑ Scientists worked to return animals to their natural habitats.
- Ⓒ Scientists warned hunters not to harm the endangered animals.
- Ⓓ Scientists had a difficult time saving the endangered animals.

Part B

Which detail from "The Missing Lynx" supports the answer to Part A?

- Ⓐ ". . . roads cut through the lynxes' habitat, so the cats are sometimes hit by cars." (paragraph 2)
- Ⓑ ". . . released more than 1,000 rabbits into the rabbitats." (paragraph 6)
- Ⓒ "The landowners wanted to hunt the rabbits for themselves" (paragraph 10)
- Ⓓ ". . . also moved some wild lynxes to new areas . . ." (paragraph 11)

7. You read the articles "A Howling Success" and "The Missing Lynx." Think about the key details in each article that show how people can help animals.

Write an essay comparing and contrasting the key details presented in the two articles about how endangered animals can be helped. Use specific details and examples from both articles to support your ideas.



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