

**The following information applies to parts A, B, C, D, E, and F.**

Ocelots are small wildcats that were previously found in 25 counties in Texas where shrubland is prevalent. As a result of land use changes, only 74 ocelots remain in 4 counties in Texas today. Rodents such as pocket mice are the main source of food for ocelots, but ocelots also prey on other small animals such as snakes and lizards.

**3. Respond to parts A, B, C, D, E, and F, and all subparts.****Part A**

**Identify** one environmental consequence that could result from having a smaller population of ocelots.

**Part B**

**Calculate** the percent change in the number of Texas counties where ocelots have been found historically as compared to today. **Show** your work.

**Part C**

Researchers expect the ocelot population to grow at a constant rate of 2.8% per year. **Calculate** the number of years it will take for the ocelot population to double based on a constant rate of growth. **Show** your work.

**Part D**

Pocket mice eat plants in the shrubland, while snakes are carnivores. **Explain** why the amount of primary production energy available to ocelots would change if ocelots ate only carnivores such as snakes and not pocket mice.

**Part E**

Ocelots need 720 grams of food per day. Pocket mice weigh an average of 43 grams each. If the ocelot diet consists of 46% pocket mice by weight, **calculate** how many pocket mice an ocelot would need to consume in one day, assuming each mouse weighs the average amount. **Show** your work.

**Part F**

As urbanization has increased in southern Texas, motor vehicle collisions have become the main cause of death in ocelots, which poses an added threat to the remaining ocelots.

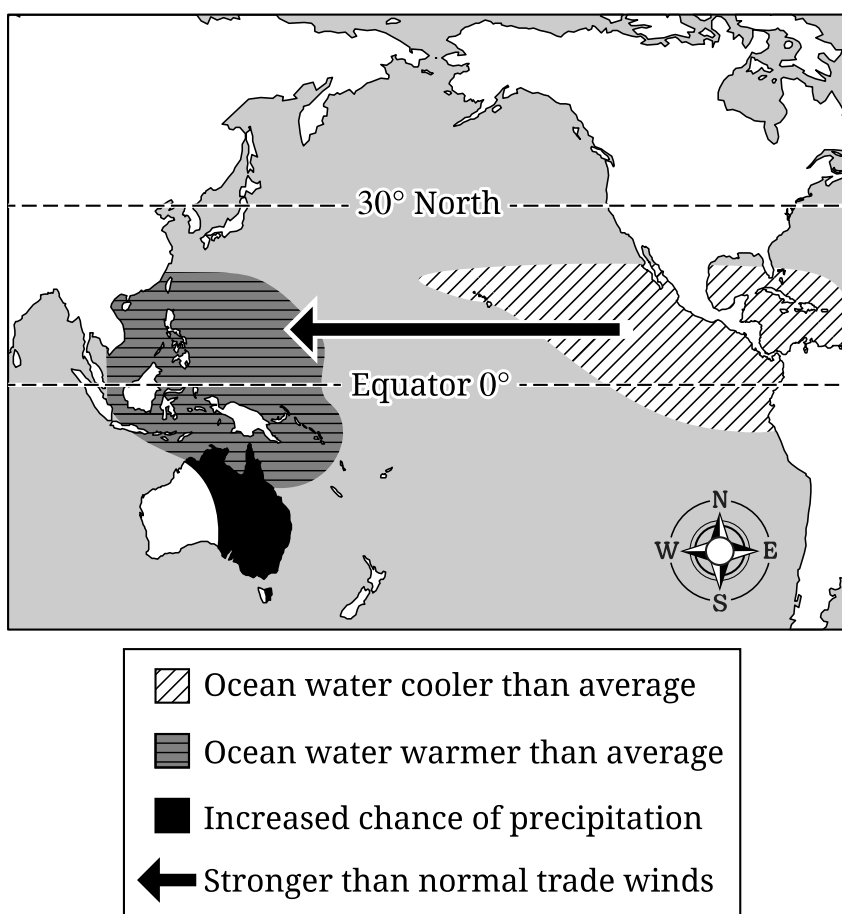
- i. **Propose** a realistic solution to reduce the number of ocelots killed by vehicles.
- ii. **Justify** the solution proposed in part F (i) by explaining an additional advantage, other than reducing the number of ocelots killed by vehicles.

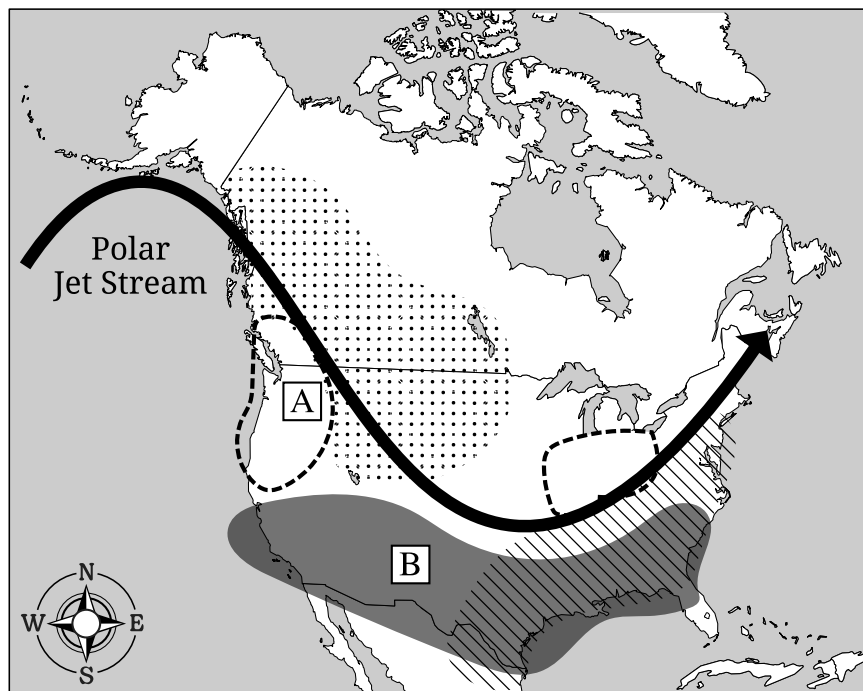
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There is a natural climate phenomenon that occurs in the equatorial Pacific Ocean because of periodic fluctuations in sea surface conditions and atmospheric circulation. This phenomenon happens every few years, resulting in shifts in temperature and precipitation in many parts of the world.

Figure 1 shows temperature and precipitation patterns associated with one phase of this phenomenon in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Figure 2 shows the associated temperature and precipitation patterns that occur over North America.

**Figure 1. Effects of Changes in Sea Surface Conditions in Equatorial Pacific Ocean**



**Figure 2. Polar Jet Stream and Climate Conditions in North America**

-  Increased chance of precipitation
-  Decreased chance of precipitation
-  Cooler than average
-  Warmer than average

2. Respond to parts A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, and J.

- A. **Identify** the sea surface condition for the eastern equatorial area of the Pacific Ocean illustrated in Figure 1.
- B. Based on the information in Figure 1, **identify** the climate phenomenon associated with the sea surface conditions shown in the equatorial area of the Pacific Ocean.
- C. Based on the information in Figure 2, **describe** a difference in climate patterns between the regions A and B.
- D. Increases in regional precipitation can lead to increased flooding in certain locations. **Describe** one reason why there is an increased risk of flooding in urban areas during extended periods of precipitation.
- E. **Propose** a realistic solution a city could implement to decrease the risk of flooding in urban areas.
- F. **Justify** the solution proposed in part E by providing an additional advantage other than a reduction in the risk of flooding.
- G. Terrestrial biomes are primarily determined by temperature and precipitation patterns. **Describe** one difference between the climate of a temperate seasonal forest and that of a savanna.
- H. Droughts are one environmental problem that can affect the frequency and severity of forest fires. **Identify** the ecological process that occurs following a forest fire that leaves the soil intact.
- I. **Describe** one way burning forests contribute to atmospheric pollution.
- J. **Describe** one sustainable forestry practice that could be used to reduce the occurrence or severity of forest fires.

1. Respond to parts A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, and I, and all subparts.

- A. Based on the data in the graph, **identify** the number of Common Tern breeding pairs in 1995.
- B. Based on the data in the graph, **describe** the trend in the number of Common Tern breeding pairs from 1995 to 2008.
- C. A group of students hypothesized that sea level rise will lead to an increase in Common Tern populations. **Describe** one way that the data in the graph refute this hypothesis.
- D. **Explain** how climate change can lead to sea level rise.
- E. Wading birds are a group of large-bodied birds that inhabit coastal wetlands all over the world. Researchers monitored the number of wading bird species at four coastal locations experiencing rising sea levels over a 5-year period. The data are shown in the following table.

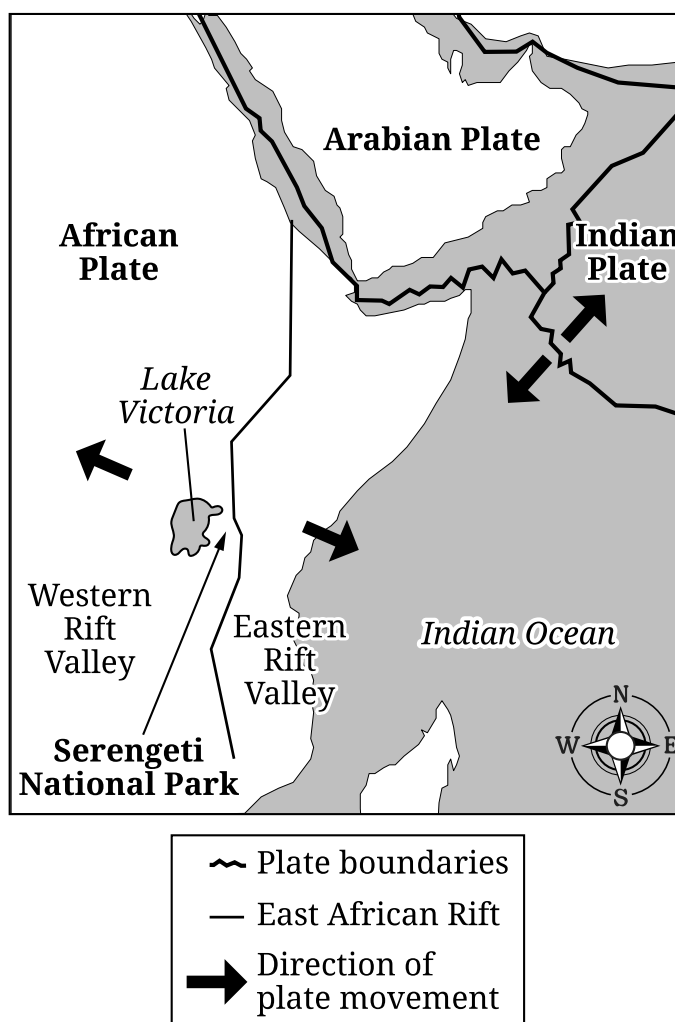
Sea Level Rise and Number of Wading Bird Species at Four Coastal Locations

| Year | Increase in Sea Level<br>(m) | Location<br>A | Location<br>B | Location<br>C | Location<br>D |
|------|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1    | 0.05                         | 1             | 5             | 3             | 4             |
| 2    | 0.08                         | 2             | 4             | 3             | 6             |
| 3    | 0.10                         | 6             | 7             | 5             | 5             |
| 4    | 0.12                         | 5             | 7             | 7             | 7             |
| 5    | 0.15                         | 7             | 8             | 9             | 8             |

- i. **Identify** a hypothesis that researchers are likely investigating in the wading bird study.
- ii. **Identify** the dependent variable in this study.
- F. One year after the completion of the study of wading bird species described in Part E, locations A and B experienced an increase in the concentration of PCBs, known to be a persistent organic pollutant, running off into the water.  
If the researchers repeated their study, **explain** how this environmental change could affect the results of the study.
- G. **Describe** a regulating ecosystem service that can be provided by wetlands.
- H. Since 1990, there has been an increase in urbanization around the coastal wetlands that wading bird communities inhabit. Most of these bird species eat fish and locate prey visually while walking through shallow water. An increase in sediment was discovered in a wetland located near an urban area.  
**Explain** how increased sediment might lead to a change in the size of the wading bird populations.
- I. **Describe** an environmental problem, other than an increase in sediment, that can occur in wetlands that is associated with increased urbanization and development.

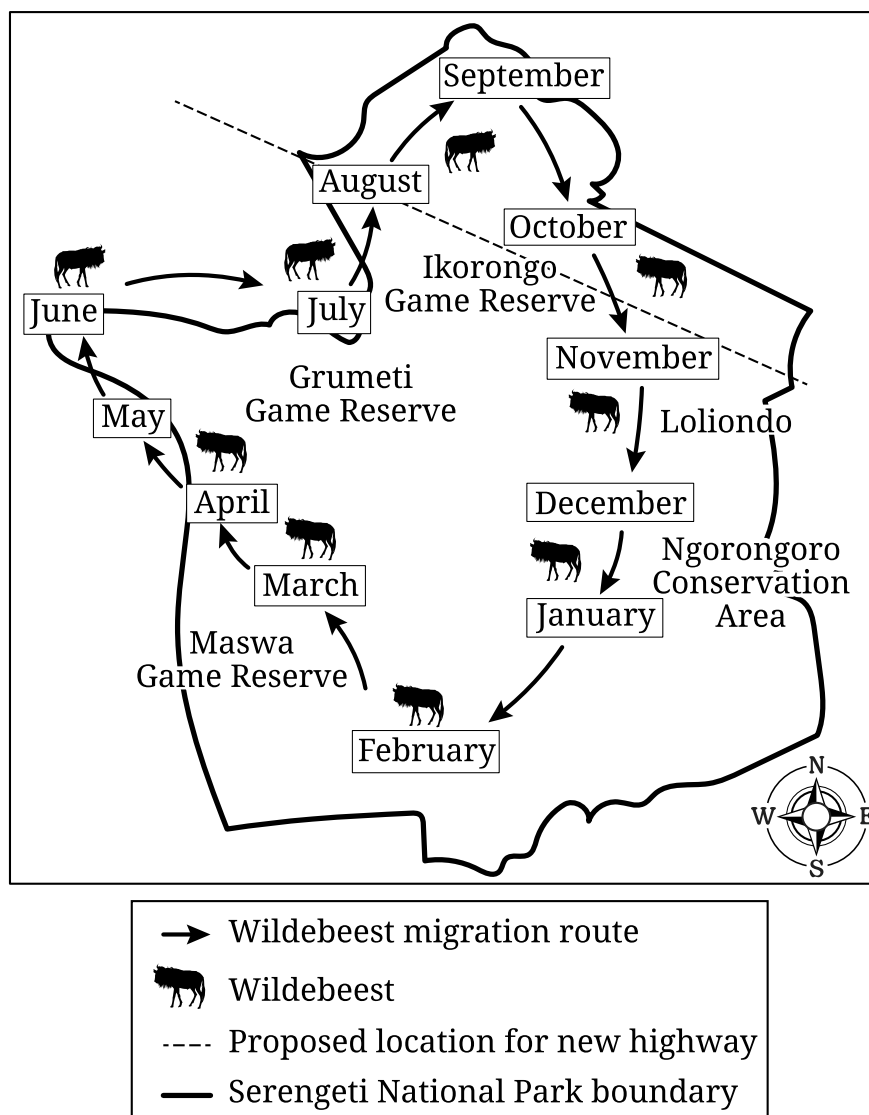
Serengeti National Park is located in Tanzania, Africa. The park is located in a valley along a tectonic plate boundary called the East African Rift. Figure 1 shows the East African Rift and other plate boundaries near the east coast of Africa.

**Figure 1. Tectonic Plate Movement near East Coast of Africa**



Serengeti National Park contains a variety of tropical habitats but is dominated by wideopen lands that include a variety of grass species with scattered trees and shrubs. Most grass growth occurs after the March through May rainy season. Many of the park's herbivores, such as wildebeest and zebra, migrate through the park in an annual cycle following the growth of new grass (Figure 2).

**Figure 2. Annual Migration of Wildebeest in Serengeti National Park**



**2. Respond to parts A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, and J.**

- A.** Based on the information in Figure 1, **identify** the type of plate boundary that runs beneath Serengeti National Park.
- B.** Based on the information provided, **identify** the dominant biome within the Serengeti.
- C.** Wildebeest give birth to their young when new grasses are growing. Based on the information in Figure 2, **identify** the location in the Serengeti where wildebeest are most likely to give birth.
- D.** The Serengeti has two primary types of grasses: long and short. The two grass types provide similar levels of nutrition for animals. Wildebeest primarily consume long grasses, while other herbivores such as gazelle consume the short grasses. These two similar species coexist in Serengeti National Park.

**Explain** why resource partitioning allows for the coexistence of the wildebeest and the gazelle in the Serengeti.

- E.** The Tanzanian government plans to build a highway across the northern portion of the Serengeti, as shown in Figure 2.

**Describe** one way the planned highway shown in Figure 2 could negatively affect the wildebeest population in the Serengeti.

- F. Propose** a solution to the negative effect created by the planned highway described in part E.
- G.** Many organisms live in grasslands. One weed species, the spotted knapweed, was introduced at one location in North America in the 1890s and is currently found throughout the rangelands of the western United States. The spotted knapweed poses several environmental problems in North America. Farmers often use crop rotation to control populations of pests like the spotted knapweed. A more traditional method of controlling pests involves spraying pesticides.

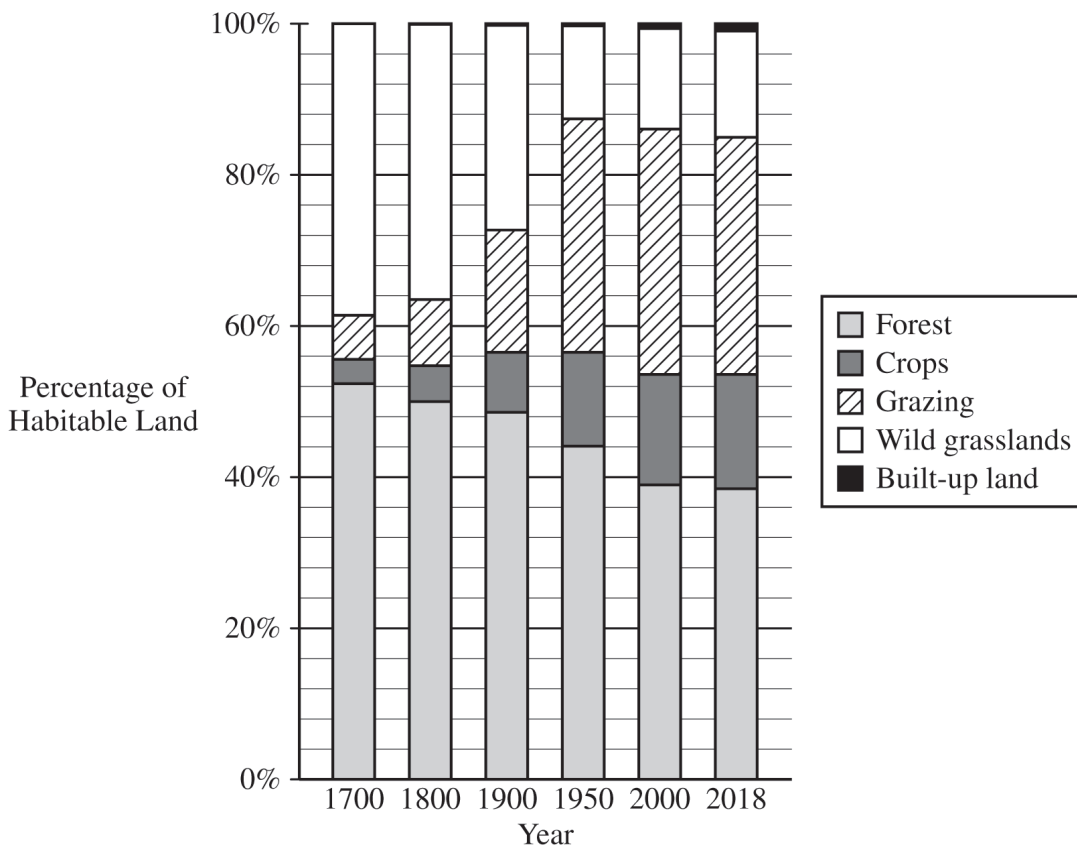
**Describe** a characteristic of an invasive species, such as the spotted knapweed, that allows them to outcompete native species.

- H. Justify** the use of crop rotation as an environmental solution by providing an additional advantage, other than controlling pest populations.
- I. Describe** an environmental problem associated with controlling pest populations with large amounts of pesticide.
- J. Propose** a solution to controlling pests, other than pesticides or crop rotation.



2. The following graph shows how global uses of habitable land have changed since 1700.

### Land Use Changes on Earth, 1700–2018



- (a) Based on the data in the graph, **identify** the year with the highest percentage of forest.
- (b) Based on the data in the graph, **describe** the relationship between the land use changes in the wild grasslands and grazing from 1700 to 1950.
- (c) **Identify** an environmental problem associated with overgrazing by livestock.
- (d) A student hypothesized that the change in the percentage of forest from 1700 to 2018 has decreased atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations. **Explain** whether the hypothesis is supported or refuted based on the data in the graph.

Urban environments have accounted for an increasing percentage of land use within the last few decades.

- (e) **Describe** a water-related environmental problem associated with urbanization.
- (f) **Describe** a potential response to mitigate the environmental problem identified in part (e).

Farmers who own large sections of cropland notice that bobcats, a medium-sized predatory forest cat, were present many years ago but are now virtually absent in the area. Instead, smaller mammal species now inhabit the area. Over time, the farmers have cleared nearly all of the forest on their property and converted it to farmland.

(g) **Explain** why there are fewer bobcats present on the farmland now compared to several decades ago.

The small mammal species are considered pests by the farmers. The farmers partner with a conservation group to increase the number of bobcats in the area. As a solution, the conservation group will introduce bobcats onto the few isolated patches of the original forested habitat left in the area. They can introduce only a small number of bobcats in each patch.

(h) **Describe** a disadvantage of introducing only a small population of bobcats.

(i) **Propose** a solution to improve the chances that the bobcat reintroductions will be successful in reestablishing wild populations.

(j) **Justify** the solution proposed in part (i) by describing an additional advantage, other than reestablishing the bobcat population near the farms.

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**Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.**

3. Increasing global urbanization causes associated problems such as the formation of urban heat islands.

(a) **Describe** how urbanization leads to the formation of urban heat islands.

(b) Urban heat islands have been linked to a variety of environmental problems.

(i) **Propose** a reasonable solution that could help lower the temperature increases caused by urban heat islands.

(ii) **Justify** the solution proposed in part (b)(i) by providing one additional benefit other than reducing temperatures in urban heat islands.

(c) Urban areas are increasingly using solar energy to generate electricity for residences and businesses.

(i) As a result of improved technology, the efficiency of solar panels has changed over time. In 1992 a solar cell had a maximum efficiency of 15.9%. In 2017 a solar cell prototype capable of 44.5% efficiency was produced. **Calculate** the percent change in efficiency from the 1992 cell to the 2017 cell. **Show** your work.

(ii) The average home in the United States uses 12,900 kWh of electricity per year. The local power company is raising the cost of purchasing electricity from \$0.11 per kWh to \$0.13 per kWh. Assuming a home uses the average kWh of electricity in one year, **calculate** the change in electricity cost for one year for the homeowner. **Show** your work.

(iii) The roof of a typical house in the United States receives a total of four hours of sunlight per day that can be converted by solar panels into electricity. A house has 30 solar panels on its roof, and each panel generates a maximum output of 300 watts. **Calculate** how many kWh can be produced by the system at maximum output in one calendar year. **Show** your work.

(d) **Explain** why the Northern Hemisphere receives more solar energy from the Sun between June and August than the Southern Hemisphere receives between June and August.

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**Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.**

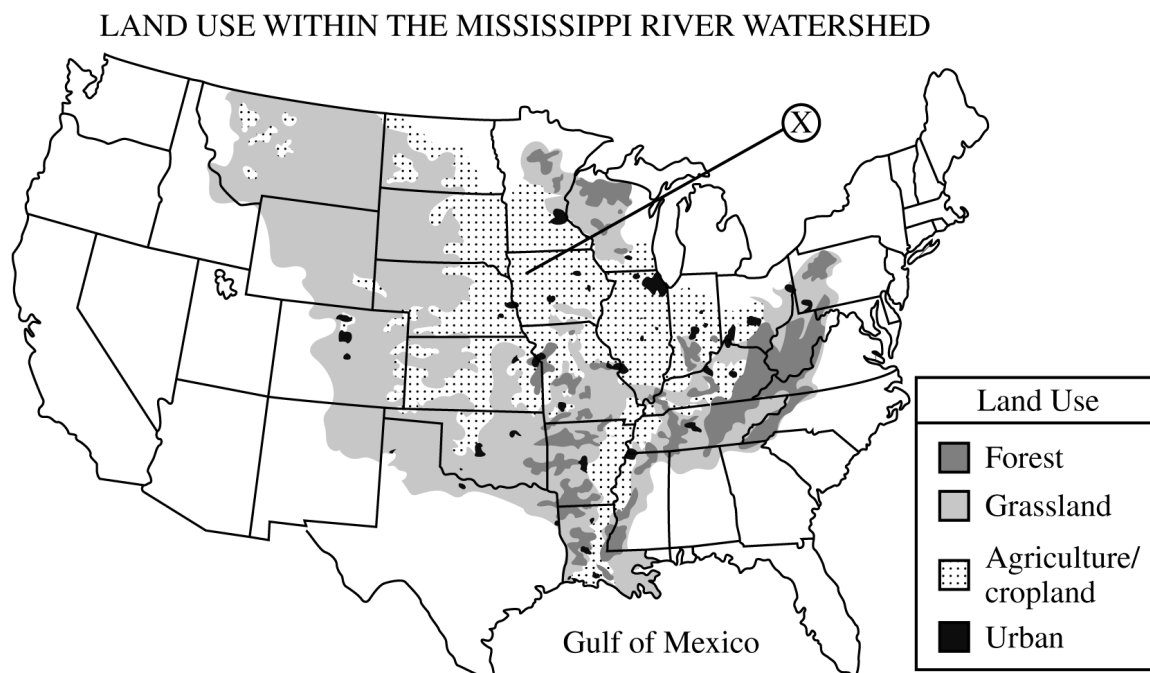
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**END OF EXAM**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE****SECTION II****Time—1 hour and 10 minutes****3 Questions**

**Directions:** Answer all three questions, which are weighted equally; the suggested time is about 22 minutes for answering each question. Write all your answers in the Free Response booklet. Where calculations are required, clearly show how you arrived at your answer. Where explanation or discussion is required, support your answers with relevant information and/or specific examples. You may plan your answers in this orange booklet, but no credit will be given for anything written in this booklet. **You will only earn credit for what you write in the separate Free Response booklet.**

1. The dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico occurs every summer when winter snow melts and spring rain flows into the Mississippi River. Recent studies have shown that both the total area covered by algae and the depth of the algal mass in the dead zone are increasing.



- (a) Various land use practices can have different effects on the waters that surround a dead zone.
- (i) **Identify** the land use that covers the least amount of area in the Mississippi River watershed, based on the diagram.
  - (ii) **Describe** one way that the land use practice at location X in the diagram could contribute to the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico.
  - (iii) **Describe** one way that urban areas in the Mississippi River watershed could contribute to the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico.

- (b) The dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico has both economic and environmental effects for coastal communities.
- (i) **Describe** how a dead zone affects marine organisms living in the Gulf of Mexico.
  - (ii) **Describe** one economic effect on communities along the Gulf of Mexico that can result from the presence of the dead zone.
  - (iii) **Describe** one factor that causes the area of the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico to increase in the summer months.
- (c) Researchers want to examine the effect of riparian vegetation buffers on water quality in streams in agricultural areas. Researchers will measure the water nutrient concentrations over the course of one year. The study sites are located 100 meters downstream from areas either with or without riparian vegetation buffers.
- (i) **Identify** a testable hypothesis for the study.
  - (ii) **Describe** a control that the researchers could use in the study.
  - (iii) **Identify** one water quality test, other than measuring nitrates or phosphates, that the researchers could use to evaluate how riparian vegetation buffers affect water quality.
  - (iv) During the investigation, researchers discovered that some of the land next to one of the streams with a riparian vegetation buffer is going to be converted from cornfields into a large-scale concentrated animal feeding operation. **Explain** one way that this change in land use could alter the results of the study.

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**Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.**

3. Habitat destruction and fragmentation can have many different effects on species.

- (a) **Describe** a characteristic of a specialist species that would make the specialist species more likely to be negatively affected by habitat fragmentation than a generalist species.

A rapidly growing suburban municipality purchases nearby forested land and proposes a newly planned housing development, which would involve clear-cutting much of the area for the construction of single-family homes. While evaluating the land, the development committee discovers that development will encroach upon the habitat of a wood thrush population. The wood thrush is a solitary, territorial bird whose preferred habitat consists of large, intact densely forested areas. Wood thrush populations are also threatened by cowbirds. A cowbird lays her egg in an existing nest of a wood thrush. After the cowbird egg hatches, the cowbird pushes the unhatched wood thrush eggs out. The wood thrush parents raise the cowbird hatchling as their own.

- (b) **Identify** the symbiotic relationship between the wood thrush and the cowbird.
- (c) **Describe** one ecological advantage of leaving areas of undeveloped forest in the development plan as compared to clear-cutting the property.
- (d) **Propose** a solution that will minimize the effect of development on the resident population of wood thrush while still meeting the municipality's need for a housing development.
- (e) A male wood thrush needs a minimum of  $800 \text{ m}^2$  of territory for reproduction. The municipal development committee has set a biodiversity preservation target of 275 male wood thrush territories. **Calculate** the area that must be set aside to support the goal of 275 male thrush territories. **Show** your work.
- (f) A real estate developer wants to build houses on the property. The plan will support 1,000 lots with a lot size of  $1,100 \text{ m}^2$ . The developer has proposed setting aside land equal to 10% of the size of each lot it sells. **Calculate** the maximum number of male wood thrush territories that could be created under this proposal. **Show** your work.
- (g) **Calculate** the percentage of each of the 1,000 lots that would need to be set aside in order to support the goal of 275 male wood thrush territories. **Show** your work.

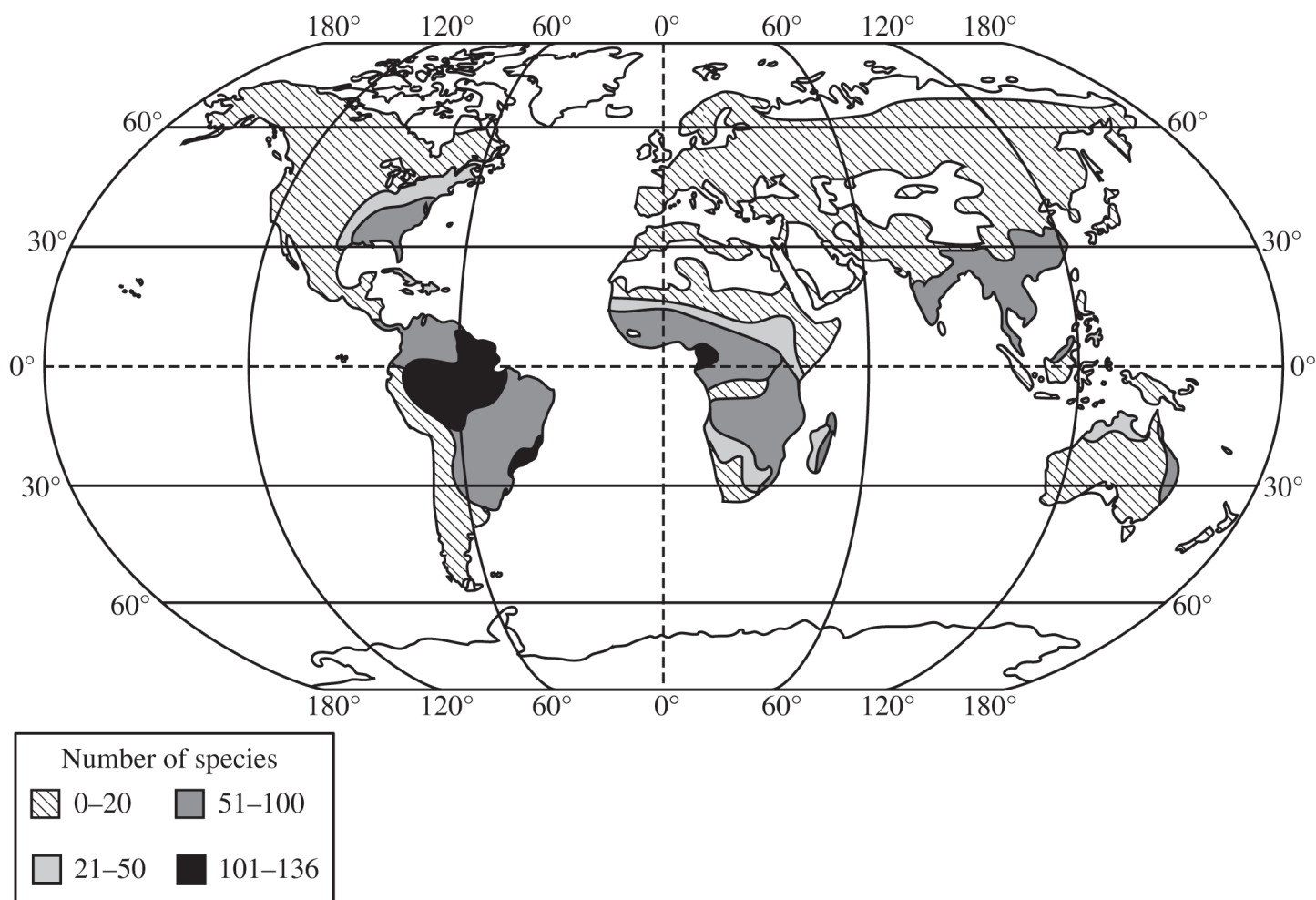
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**END OF EXAM**

## GLOBAL AMPHIBIAN SPECIES RICHNESS



2. Biodiversity around the world is changing as a result of anthropogenic influences.

(a) The map represents species richness of amphibians around the globe. Use the map to answer the following questions.

(i) **Identify** the latitudinal range with the greatest amphibian species richness.

(ii) **Identify** what biome this range most likely represents.

(iii) **Describe** one reason amphibian species richness would tend to be highest in this region.

(b) There are many environmental threats facing amphibians today, such as deforestation. **Describe** one possible anthropogenic reason for deforestation.

(c) Many factors influence biodiversity.

(i) **Explain** how the species richness of an ecosystem influences its response to environmental stressors.

(ii) **Explain** why amphibian biodiversity is declining globally, other than from deforestation.

(d) Currently, wildlife species are going extinct at an alarming rate. To combat this threat, governments around the world have enacted legislation and signed treaties to protect species threatened by extinction.

- (i) **Identify** one specific piece of legislation that has been designed to protect species threatened by extinction.
- (ii) **Explain** how the requirements of the legislation identified in part (d)(i) specifically protect species threatened by extinction.
- (e) A town is considering selling an undeveloped parcel of land along its border for residential developments. The square parcel of land consists of approximately 30% wetland and 70% pasture. The wetland runs through the middle of the property for its entire width and is home to three native frog species.
- (i) **Propose** a viable solution that will result in the protection of the native frog species while still allowing for maximum profit of the property development.
- (ii) **Justify** the solution proposed in (e)(i) by describing a potential advantage of the plan, other than frog protection.

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**Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.**



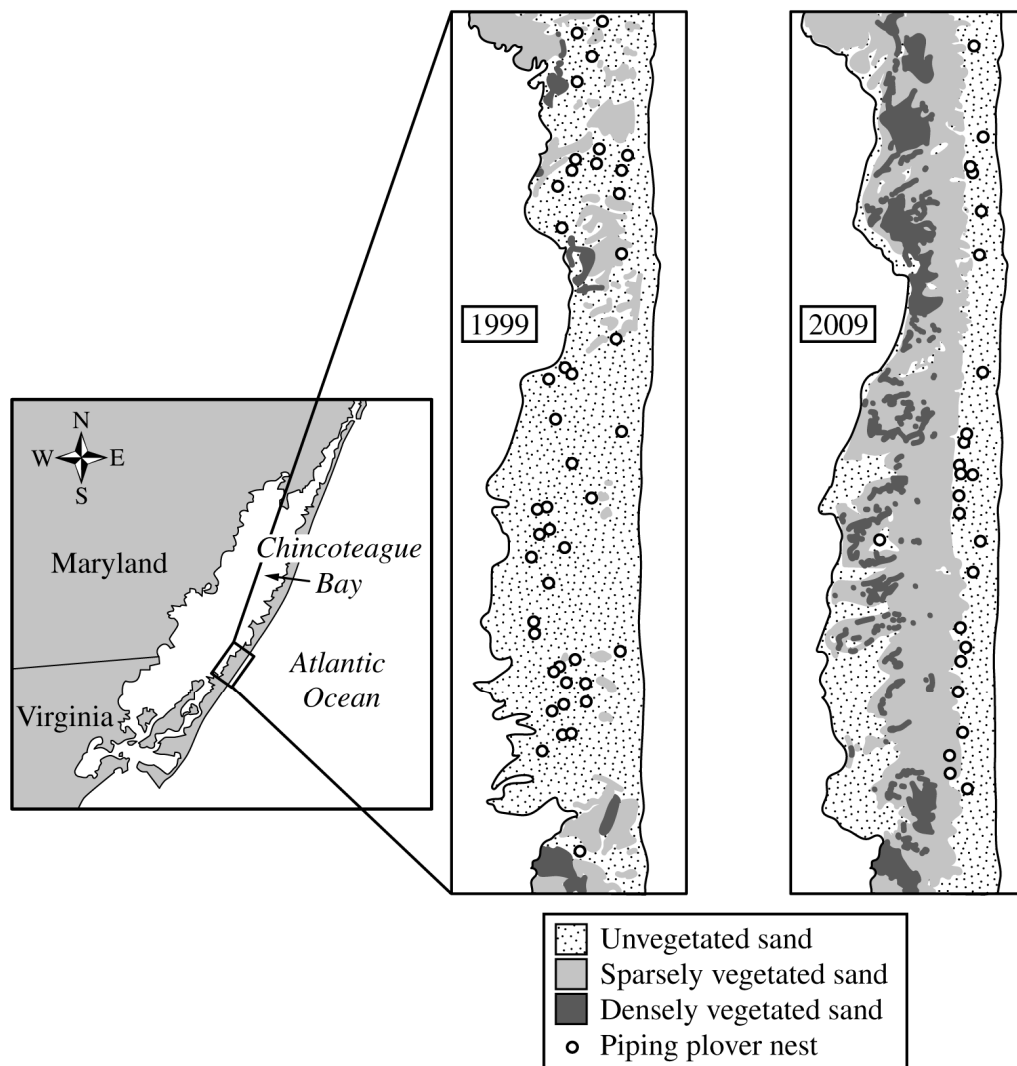
**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE****SECTION II****Time—1 hour and 30 minutes****4 Questions**

**Directions:** Answer all four questions, which are weighted equally; the suggested time is about 22 minutes for answering each question. Write all your answers on the pages following the questions in this book. Where calculations are required, clearly show how you arrived at your answer. Where explanation or discussion is required, support your answers with relevant information and/or specific examples.

1. The piping plover is a globally threatened species, with perhaps as few as 2,000 nesting pairs remaining in the Atlantic population of these migratory shorebirds. Plovers were nearly hunted to extinction in the nineteenth century.

Plovers prefer to nest and search for food on open sandy beaches between sparsely vegetated sand dunes. Washovers, where sand is washed up from the beach and buries vegetated areas during big storms, are also important to plovers because they provide moist and undisturbed habitat for plover adults and their chicks. Ecologists with the Elliott Oceanographic Institute mapped the distribution of plover nests during two seasonal surveys of nesting sites over a ten-year period on Assateague Island. This is a barrier island, a long, narrow island running parallel to the Atlantic coast of Virginia.

**SPRING PIPING PLOVER NESTING SITES  
ON ASSATEAGUE ISLAND, VIRGINIA**



(a) Use the maps provided to answer the following questions.

- (i) **Identify** the preferred nesting habitat for piping plovers.
- (ii) **Describe** the change in the number of piping plover nests on Assateague Island between 1999 and 2009.
- (iii) **Describe** one likely reason for the change in the number of piping plover nests between 1999 and 2009.

(b) Coastal species are affected by more than just natural events.

- (i) Special beach restrictions can help piping plovers during nesting season. **Describe** one restriction that could reasonably be implemented to help prevent the destruction of plover nests by human actions.
- (ii) In addition to providing habitat for piping plovers, barrier islands (and closely related landforms) are important for other reasons. **Explain** one way that these features help to preserve and protect the environment in coastal regions.
- (iii) **Identify** one human action that directly threatens coastal habitats and **describe** one impact on species, other than the piping plover, that use the habitat.

Approximately 40% of the United States population resides in coastal areas, such as areas near Assateague Island, where sea level rise and shoreline erosion is occurring.

- (c) **Identify** one economic impact on coastal communities that has resulted from rising sea levels.
- (d) **Describe** TWO methods that may be used locally to protect coastal communities from rising sea levels.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE****SECTION II****Time—90 minutes****4 Questions**

**Directions:** Answer all four questions, which are weighted equally; the suggested time is about 22 minutes for answering each question. Write all your answers on the pages following the questions in this book. Where calculations are required, clearly show how you arrived at your answer. Where explanation or discussion is required, support your answers with relevant information and/or specific examples.

1. Read the article below and answer the questions that follow.

**The Floridian Daily****May 21, 2013**

The small community located on the edge of the magnificent wetlands of Florida's Everglades was the site of a press conference today where Governor Gayle Moss announced that the restoration of the Everglades is successfully underway. She noted that the Everglades ecosystem has suffered threats to its water quality, water quantity, and habitats in recent decades. Moss noted that intensive urban and agricultural development in adjacent areas has diverted substantial amounts of

freshwater resources and impaired water quality. Governor Moss then emphasized that the preservation and enhancement of the Everglades, key goals of the restoration program, are absolutely essential for the continued environmental and economic health of the state. She closed the press conference by saying, "The Everglades is a gem not only for Florida but for the entire world. Each of us has the responsibility to do our part to preserve this magnificent resource."

- (a) **Describe** how TWO human activities, other than those that result in anthropogenic climate change, have resulted in a decrease in the amount of freshwater flowing into the Everglades ecosystem.
- (b) In addition to water quantity problems, the Everglades is faced with a variety of water quality issues. For example, phosphorus concentrations in the Everglades have increased since the 1960s.
- (i) **Describe** how one specific human activity contributes to increased phosphorus levels in the Everglades.
  - (ii) **Explain** one way in which an increase in phosphorus levels can adversely affect the Everglades ecosystem.
  - (iii) **Describe** one step that could be taken to reduce phosphorus inputs from the activity you identified in part (i).
- (c) Climate change could have a variety of impacts on water quantity, water quality, and habitat. For EACH of these three factors, **identify and describe** one specific example of an impact on the Everglades likely to result from climate change.
- (d) The article states that Governor Moss believes that the "preservation and enhancement of the Everglades, key goals of the restoration program, are absolutely essential for the continued environmental and economic health of the state."
- (i) **Describe** one way that restoring water quantity and water quality in the Everglades is expected to improve the structure and function of the ecosystem.
  - (ii) **Describe** one way that restoring the Everglades is expected to provide economic benefits to Florida.

2. Like many communities, Fremont has a combined sewer system that collects both sewage and storm water. When storm water runs into storm drains that connect to the city's sanitary sewer system, the storm water and sewage flow together to the Fremont Wastewater Treatment Plant (FWTP). During a major storm event, however, the combined volume of storm water and sewage may exceed the plant's capacity, and the overflow bypasses the FWTP. The untreated overflow is discharged into Fremont Creek along with the treated waste.

Recently parts of Fremont received 5 cm of rain in 60 minutes. The storm caused widespread flooding in the northeast section of town. Especially hard hit was the Shoppes at Fremont shopping center.

Use the data from the table below to answer the questions that follow. Show all calculations.

| Fremont Water Data                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The shopping center's parking lot is 200 meters long and 100 meters wide.                           |
| Fremont has an area of $10 \text{ km}^2$ .                                                          |
| Impervious surfaces cover 20 percent of Fremont's area.                                             |
| The FWTP typically treats $5,000 \text{ m}^3$ of domestic sewage per day.                           |
| The FWTP has the capacity to treat $10,000 \text{ m}^3$ of combined sewage and storm water per day. |

- (a) **Identify** TWO specific pollutants in storm-water runoff that degrade the quality of surface water.
- (b) **Calculate** the volume of water (in  $\text{m}^3$ ) that runs off the Shoppes at Fremont parking lot after a 5 cm rainfall event. Assume that all the water that falls on the parking lot runs off.
- (c) **Calculate** the volume of storm-water runoff (in  $\text{m}^3$ ) generated in all of Fremont by the 5 cm rainfall event. Assume that only the impervious surfaces generate runoff.
- (d) Assume that all the runoff that you calculated in part (c) is captured by the storm sewers in one day. **Calculate** the volume of untreated water (in  $\text{m}^3$ ) that bypasses the plant as a result of the storm. (Note that the plant still receives  $5,000 \text{ m}^3$  of domestic sewage per day.)
- (e) **Describe** TWO ways that the volume of storm-water runoff can be reduced.
- (f) **Describe** one environmental problem (other than pollution from runoff and from untreated sewage) that results from having extensive paved areas.