

Read the legend. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Legend of the Cedar Tree

*a Cherokee legend
told by Eileen Evers*

1 Long ago, when people were still new upon the earth, they came to believe that their lives would be easier if there was only daylight and no darkness. So, they sent their cries skyward in hopes that the Ouga, their creator, would hear them.

2 The Ouga did hear their voices and, because he loved his people as a father loves his children, he made the night cease as they desired. But as the weeks went on, and the people had to work and toil continuously in the fields, their crops grew in such abundance that they could scarcely keep up. And because there was only daylight, it was always hot, so hot that sleep was impossible. The people, already tired from long hours of work, became short-tempered and irritable. Everyone was on edge.

3 And so, the people sent new cries skyward, asking the Ouga if he might make it night all the time instead. The Ouga hesitated, knowing that there is purpose in all things created in twos—day and night, birth and death, joy and sadness. In the end, however, because he was kind and wanted to please them, the Ouga gave his people what they wanted.

4 Daylight ceased and night fell upon the earth. Soon crops began to wither, and because there was only darkness, it was always cold. The people had to constantly gather wood for fires to keep warm. They could not see to hunt and with no crops to harvest, they became hungry and weak. Many of them died.

5 And so, the people sent new cries skyward, begging the Ouga's forgiveness. "Please return to us the day and night that you made perfect for us in the beginning."

6 The Ouga restored day and night, each day forming a perfect boundary of light and darkness. Soon the weather became more pleasant and crops began to grow again. People could hunt and there was plenty to eat. They were happy and humbled and vowed never again to take their many blessings for granted.

7 The Ouga was pleased to see his people smiling once again, but his heart was heavy, for during the time of darkness many of his people had perished. He decided to create a new tree into which he placed their spirits. This tree was named a-tsi-na tlu-gv (ah-see-na loo-guh), or the cedar tree. And so, as tradition holds, whenever the Cherokee gaze upon a cedar, they remember to pause and honor the brothers and sisters who came before them.

1

Read these sentences from the passage.

But as the weeks went on, and the people had to work and toil continuously in the fields, their crops grew in such abundance that they could scarcely keep up. And because there was only daylight, it was always hot, so hot that sleep was impossible. The people, already tired from long hours of work, became short-tempered and irritable. Everyone was on edge.

What does the phrase "on edge" mean in the last sentence?

- A** touchy and grumpy
- B** hot and sweaty
- C** worried and scared
- D** tired and overworked

2

Read these sentences from the passage.

The Ouga restored day and night, each day forming a perfect boundary of light and darkness. Soon the weather became more pleasant and crops began to grow again. People could hunt and there was plenty to eat. They were happy and humbled and vowed never again to take their many blessings for granted.

What does this event suggest about the people?

- A** They blame the Ouga for their problems.
- B** They are able to learn from their mistakes.
- C** They think the Ouga is wise and kind.
- D** They only care about getting food for themselves.

3

Which of the following statements **best** expresses the theme of the passage?

- A** People usually make poor choices.
- B** When there is balance in life, there is harmony.
- C** Those who came before should be remembered.
- D** Without darkness and light, crops cannot grow.

4 Which of these describes the **most important** method the author uses to develop the theme?

- A** showing the Ouga as an all-powerful being
- B** closing the story with details about the cedar tree
- C** emphasizing how much the Ouga loves the people and wants to please them
- D** describing what happens when there is only night and when there is only day

5 How does the author contrast the Ouga's point of view with the point of view of the people?

- A** by showing how much the Ouga loved the people
- B** by telling what the people wanted the Ouga to do for them
- C** by explaining the Ouga's doubts about granting the people's wishes
- D** by describing what happens when the Ouga does as the people ask

6 Which of these details from the passage **best** shows that the people are sorry for the demands they made to the Ouga?

- A** They grow hungry and weak from the lack of food.
- B** They have to constantly gather wood for fires.
- C** They beg the Ouga for forgiveness.
- D** They hope the Ouga will hear their cries.

Go On

7

Which of these actions do the people directly ask the Ouga to perform?

- A to take away the daylight so there is only darkness
- B to create a tree for the spirits of their people
- C to make their crops grow abundantly
- D to end death and sadness by taking away the darkness

8

What do the Ouga's actions reveal about his character?

- A The Ouga is angry with the people for asking so much of him.
- B The Ouga believes the people should be able to meet their own needs.
- C The Ouga has a strong love for the people despite their demands.
- D The Ouga allowed the people to keep suffering to teach them a lesson.

Read the article. Then answer the questions that follow.

Guardian on the Plateau

by Salima Ikram and Janice Kamrin, Dig

1 Just outside the city of Cairo lie the pyramids of Giza—three of the best-known monuments in the world. There, too, nestled in a hollow at the foot of the plateau is a huge statue in the form of a strange half-lion, half-human beast. This is the Great Sphinx, guardian of the Giza pyramids. Its head and neck are in the shape of a man wearing a striped headcloth that flares out to the sides and falls over the shoulders, with a pigtail in the back. This type of headcloth is called a *nemes* and was worn only by kings. A rearing cobra, called the *uraeus*, adorns the king's forehead. The ancient Egyptians believed this snake protected the king and was always ready to spit fire and poison at his enemies. The body of the Sphinx is in the shape of a crouching lion, with his tail curled around his right side.

Carved of Living Rock

2 The largest statue ever sculpted, the Sphinx is 235 feet long and 66 feet tall. Instead of using separate stone blocks to fashion the gigantic creature, artisans carved it from the living rock of the plateau. The Sphinx is actually limestone that is still attached to the ground along its belly and legs. It reclines in the middle of a quarry. This quarry was not used just to build the Sphinx. Workers used many of its stones to build the pyramids and some of the temples associated with them.

3 The Sphinx was carved with very simple tools. Among them were copper chisels and pounders of harder stone such as granite and diorite to knock off bits and pieces of the limestone. To do the final shaping and to smooth the surface, the master artisans used sand and sandstone.

Colors With Meaning

4 The entire statue was painted. The stripes of the *nemes* were painted blue and yellow, and bits of red paint can still be seen on the face. Statues and paintings of Egyptian men have reddish-brown skin to show that they spent a lot of time in the sun.

5 The body of the Sphinx probably would have been painted golden-yellow, to look like a lion's fur. The red and yellow paint was made of ochers, which are soft, colored minerals found in the deserts of Egypt. The blue was probably made from azurite, a mineral found in the Sinai Peninsula. To paint, Egyptian artists would have used very large brushes that were made of reeds or palm fibers.

6 The rock of the Giza plateau is not all of the same quality. Some layers, known as strata, are soft and crumbly, while others are harder and stronger. Because of this, the head, carved in the harder limestone, has survived better than the body. The nose is missing, but this is because it was destroyed on purpose long after the time of the pharaohs.

7 Parts of the body—those made of the softer limestone—started to fall apart in ancient times. Workers repaired the damage with blocks of stone. These repairs, however, have had to be made again and again. The last time was in the 1990s.

Go On

A Temple for the Creature

8 The structure in front of the Sphinx is called the Sphinx Temple. It has a courtyard with 24 granite pillars, a sacred chamber facing east, and another sacred chamber facing west. The floor was made of Egyptian alabaster, a beautiful creamy stone that came from Middle Egypt. The temple was never completely finished, and some scholars think that it was never actually used.

9 For thousands of years, people have been fascinated by this curious creature. They have wondered about who made it and tried to figure out what it meant. Most archaeologists agree that it was carved in about 2550 b.c. for Khafre, the king who built the middle pyramid on the Giza Plateau. Some, however, suggest that the Sphinx might be Khufu, Khafre's father.

10 Whether it was Khufu or Khafre who had the Sphinx carved is not as important as the message the statue was meant to convey. It represented the king as a god, with the wisdom of a human and the power of a lion, the mightiest of all beasts. Sphinxes were also linked to the sun. The Great Sphinx was associated with the god Horemakhet, the god Horus in the Horizon. This was the sun as it rose each morning and set each evening.

11 The sun would have been worshipped in the Sphinx Temple, with the rising sun honored in the eastern sanctuary and the setting sun in the western sanctuary. Through its connection with the sun, the Sphinx itself would also have been worshipped in the temple. At the same time, the Sphinx might have represented the king praising his spiritual father, the sun god, for eternity.

-
- 9** According to the passage, the Sphinx is carved into stone and measures 235 feet long by 66 feet tall. Which of the following states two central ideas from the passage that this detail supports?
- A** The ancient Egyptians repaired damage to the Sphinx, and more repairs were made recently.
 - B** The Great Sphinx was painted, and paint can still be seen on the face of the statue.
 - C** The ancient Egyptians worshipped the sun, and the Sphinx was connected to the sun.
 - D** The Great Sphinx was a powerful symbol, and creating it was a significant achievement.

- 10** What is the **most likely** reason the authors refer to the stone as "living rock" in paragraph 2?
- A** to emphasize how the Sphinx is connected to and grows from the earth
 - B** to stress the effects on the lives of the workers who built the Sphinx
 - C** to show how the Sphinx has grown larger and changed over time
 - D** to describe how the surface of the Sphinx provides a home for plant life

11 Read this sentence from paragraph 2.

It reclines in the middle of a quarry.

The word "reclines" in this sentence **most closely** means

- A** lies down
- B** stays alert
- C** lives forever
- D** turns to dust

12 Based on information in the passage, which of the Egyptians' beliefs had the greatest influence on the placement of the Sphinx Temple?

- A** The lion was the mightiest of all the beasts.
- B** The cobra would spit poison to protect the king.
- C** The rising and setting sun was represented by a specific god.
- D** The king had the power of a lion and the wisdom of a person.

13 Based on information in the passage, what can you tell about the material used for building the Sphinx?

- A** Although the material used for the Sphinx was stone, some of it was not durable.
- B** Because the material used for the Sphinx was limestone, it was easy to carve.
- C** The stone used for the Sphinx was brought from other parts of Egypt.
- D** The material used for the Sphinx had natural blue pigment from the mineral azurite.

Go On

- 14** Which detail from the passage helps develop the idea that the Sphinx is a “guardian” of the pyramids?
- A** The Sphinx’s head was carved in the shape of a man wearing a special head cloth called a nemes.
 - B** The temple built in front of the Sphinx has sacred chambers facing east and west to honor the rising and setting sun.
 - C** The Sphinx, resting near the pyramids, combines two symbols of power with its head of a king and its body of a lion.
 - D** Reclining in a quarry, the Sphinx is made of the same rock used to build the nearby pyramids.
- 15** With which of these opinions is the author of “Guardian on the Plateau” **most likely** to agree?
- A** History is one of the most interesting subjects to study and learn about.
 - B** History is a less important subject to study than math or science.
 - C** History should be the only subject students learn about in school.
 - D** History is more interesting than science but less interesting than math.
- 16** Which of the following **best** summarizes the ideas of “Guardian on the Plateau”?
- A** The Great Sphinx sits at the base of the plateau near the pyramids of Giza. The statue has the head of a human but the body of a lion. The statue’s head has a headcloth worn only by kings. This world-famous statue fascinates people not only because of its great size but also because of its symbolic power.
 - B** The Great Sphinx is a huge statue of a half-human, half-lion figure that sits near the pyramids of Giza. The statue was carved into limestone rock using simple tools. Over time the statue has needed repairs to the softer limestone. The statue was built around 2550 B.C. for Khafre, an Egyptian king, and has a temple for worshipping the sun.
 - C** The Great Sphinx, a statue that sits near the pyramids of Giza, is the largest statue ever created. Carved directly into the limestone rock of a quarry, the Sphinx is 235 feet long and 66 feet tall. Workers used simple tools like chisels and pounders to carve the statue around 2550 B.C. Final shaping and sanding of the statue was done with sand and sandstone.
 - D** Near Cairo, Egypt, stand some of the world’s most famous monuments: the pyramids of Egypt and the Great Sphinx. The Sphinx was carved into a limestone quarry around 2550 B.C., most likely under the direction of a king named Khafre. In front of the statue is the Sphinx temple. The temple would most likely have been used to worship the rising and setting sun.

Read the passages. Then answer the questions that follow.

Are Our Nation's Treasures in Danger?

by David George Gordon, Current Science

1 Everybody loves the American outdoors—too much, perhaps, for the outdoors' own good. This year, record numbers of tourists and adventurers are flocking to national parks and wilderness monuments. By their sheer numbers, these people are putting our nation's top outdoor attractions at risk, say experts.

Under Pressure

2 In Wyoming, Yellowstone National Park is being stretched to its limits. So is its Montana neighbor, Grand Teton National Park. Together, the two parks could receive nearly 5 million people—ten times the population of Wyoming—over the course of this year.

3 “The lodging is full, the campgrounds are full. There's nowhere to park,” says Scott Moorcroft, a ranger at Grand Teton National Park. “Things get challenging, to say the least,” he adds.

4 During busy summer months, park rangers must struggle to serve their guests. At the same time, they must take steps to safeguard the nation's most valuable scenic, historic, and prehistoric treasures. Despite their best efforts, rangers aren't able to protect those treasures all the time.

Illegal Souvenirs

5 Take the case of Petrified Forest National Park. Here, in the midst of northeastern Arizona's famed Painted Desert, are the ancient remains of what was once a semitropical forest, a forest characterized by a warm climate and moist land.

6 Roughly 60 million years ago, the climate became considerably drier. The forest slowly turned into an arid, or dry, desert. As millions of years passed, the soft wood of forest logs was replaced by quartz crystals—a process known as petrification—and the logs turned entirely to stone.

7 Today, though, even with government protection, the attractions of Petrified Forest National Park are not safe. Souvenir hunters are robbing the park on a daily basis. They take with them an estimated 12 tons of petrified wood every year.

8 Signs throughout the park remind visitors that such thievery is against the law, punishable by stiff fines and even prison sentences. When the visitors learn that they may be searched before leaving the park, they often toss their stolen treasure out of car windows. In one month during the park's busy summer season, rangers have gathered as much as 100 pounds of petrified wood that's been discarded this way.

9 “These are not hardened criminals,” says the park's chief of interpretation, Tessie Chirakawa. “For them, it's like walking along a beach and picking up seashells. But it's really different—we're talking about petrified wood that's 200 million years old!”

10 In most instances, people creating problems for national parks and natural monuments aren't trying to cause trouble, says Chirakawa. They don't realize that their activities are harming the fragile landscapes that attracted them there in the first place, she maintains.

Go On

Hot Attraction

11 William Botts agrees. He's one of a team of 20 park rangers and volunteers assigned to the Old Faithful Visitors Center at Yellowstone National Park.

12 The largest of the 35 national parks, Yellowstone is also the oldest. The park receives about 3 million guests every year. The majority make at least one trip to Old Faithful, the most famous geyser in the United States. A geyser is a hot spring that throws jets of heated water and steam into the air.

13 In Old Faithful's case, the steam and hot water that burst from its vent can leap 38 meters (125 feet) straight into the air. Visitors throng to Old Faithful to watch the spectacular display, which takes place on the average of once every 77 minutes.

Fragile Future

14 For some people, the show is not enough. "There's an enormous temptation," says Botts, "for people to toss things into Old Faithful's vent, just to see what will happen the next time it blows."

15 During the last 125 years, Yellowstone visitors have thrown every imaginable object—rocks, beer cans, rifle shells, buckets, even dirty laundry—into the geyser. Soldiers stationed at the park in the 1880s would boast that their uniforms dropped into Old Faithful would come back up clean, pressed, and folded.

16 People don't realize that about 5.5 meters (6 yards) below the surface, Old Faithful's vent is only 1 meter (3 feet) wide. It would be fairly easy for even small items to clog that vent and shut off the geyser's impressive displays forever.

17 There's real danger in what Botts describes as a cumulative effect. "One person tosses a penny, another person tosses a penny; and so on. With millions of people passing through here, there's the potential for a real mess."

18 Several of Yellowstone's smaller geysers have already been permanently plugged up with coins and other objects thrown in by visitors.

19 "After we've stopped someone and told them about clogging the vent, they're usually embarrassed about what they've done," says Botts. "Don't get me wrong, we do deal with vandals. But the vast majority of people are just making an innocent mistake, not realizing how fragile a geothermal system really is." . . .

20 "It's part of a park ranger's job to teach people how to act responsibly in the outdoors," says Chirakawa. "But after that, it's up to the people. Remember, our national parks belong to everyone. We all will determine their futures."

Underused Parks Work to Create Awareness, Access

by *Jeremy Rosenthal*, Our National Parks

1 In the summer, Alaska's Wrangell-St. Elias National Park is at once warm and filled with swarms of mosquitoes in its valleys and cold and filled with snow in its utmost elevations. If such diversity is contained within one park, imagine the variety present in a park system that spans the entire United States and its territories. Dry Tortugas National Park, 5,000 miles southeast of Wrangell-St. Elias, lies off South Florida's coast. Here, the view isn't of mountains and glaciers, but of a never-ending ocean surrounding the park's centerpiece, Fort Jefferson. Seven hundred miles from Dry Tortugas, in South Carolina, is Congaree National Park where trees reaching 167 feet tall watch over its otter- and heron-filled floodplains.

2 Though so different, these parks share the same goal. Each represents a region of the United States left wild. They also share the same struggle. Despite each park's status as a natural treasure, each is plucked from the list of national parks with the fewest visitors. That list is filled primarily with remote parks. Wrangell-St. Elias and Dry Tortugas are not exceptions. The latter is surrounded by ocean, the former by Alaska.

3 For park experts such as Linda Roehrig, Special Park Uses Program manager at Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks, the isolation is part of the allure. Roehrig remembers her first visit to Dry Tortugas, before she was in its employ. "I was impressed . . . by the fact that it is so far from civilization," she said. The park, which is a series of seven small islands about 70 miles west of Key West, Fla., must be reached by private boat, commercial ferry, or seaplane.

4 The thrill of the undiscovered still stirs the spirit of adventure inside Mark Keogh, the Public Information Officer and Concessions Management Specialist at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. "We bring people to climb peaks here that have never been climbed before. Many have yet to be named," he said.

5 Keogh doesn't want to have the park all to himself, though, and neither does Roehrig. They want others to enjoy these places they work so hard to preserve. Each of these parks hosts around 60,000 guests a year. Visitors to Dry Tortugas spend at least \$145 roundtrip and two hours each way to be transported from Key West to Garden Key, the island on which Fort Jefferson sits with its 360 degree gaze set on the rest of the park.

6 Wrangell-St. Elias is accessible by highway, but it's in a state with population density of about one person per square mile. Roads into the park are few and the park is vast. In fact, it is the largest park in our system, the size of nine states. There, glaciers even draw state comparisons. For example, Malaspina Glacier is Rhode Island-sized. Further inhibiting park attendance is the severity of Alaska's winters. The average high, across the entire year, is 38.6 degrees Fahrenheit. The average low is 15, though it is not uncommon in the winter for temperatures to dip as low as negative 50 degrees.

7 For Congaree, in relatively temperate South Carolina, weather does not deter many visitors. Nor is isolation a problem. Half an hour from the park is its home state's bustling capital at Columbia. As a national park, however, Congaree is still in its infancy. In 2003, Congaree Swamp National Monument became Congaree National Park. Word is getting around about this, the 58th and newest national park, and attendance is rapidly increasing. Since Congaree became a national park, attendance has nearly doubled, but to eventually attract the crowds it deserves, the park has to take part in some self-promotion.

Go On

8 “Some Columbians had no idea that the only national park in South Carolina with the tallest trees east of the Mississippi was right in their backyard,” said a disbelieving Swartout with an air of optimism. South Carolinians that were previously unaware of the park represent a formerly untapped market of future repeat visitors.

9 Another means of advertising is absolutely free: word of mouth. Visitors to Wrangell-St. Elias tell of the “magic” there—a word Mark Keogh used often in describing the park’s jagged and uncharted landscape. Visitors to Dry Tortugas tell of the ocean breezes felt while looking upon the beauty of the park. And visitors to Congaree tell of its serenity—a tree-filled enclave¹ amid suburbia².

10 The National Park Service challenges us to “Experience [Our] America.” To fully take up this task, one must not forget these, the hidden gems of our park system. They contribute uniquely to our landscape as remnants of what was, scattered widely among what is our America.

¹ **enclave:** escape

² **suburbia:** the area outside a city

17 Read this sentence from paragraph 1 of “Are Our Nation’s Treasures in Danger?”

Signs throughout the park remind visitors that such thievery is against the law, punishable by stiff fines and even prison sentences.

The word “stiff” in this sentence **most closely** means

- A tense
- B heavy
- C brittle
- D stubborn

18 Reread paragraph 2 of “Are Our Nation’s Treasures in Danger?”

... In Wyoming, Yellowstone National Park is being stretched to its limits. So is its Montana neighbor, Grand Teton National Park. Together, the two parks could receive nearly 5 million people—ten times the population of Wyoming—over the course of this year.

Which of the author’s claims does this paragraph support?

- A Record numbers of people are visiting the national parks.
- B Campgrounds, lodges, and parking lots in the parks are always full.
- C Souvenir hunters are stealing natural treasures from the parks.
- D People do not realize how harmful their activities can be to the parks.

- 19** How do paragraphs 5–10 of “Are Our Nation’s Treasures in Danger?” develop the author’s main idea?
- A** by presenting solutions to the problem of illegal souvenirs
 - B** by showing that most people aren’t aware that they’re doing harm
 - C** by describing in detail how petrified wood is formed
 - D** by giving an example of how visitors are harming one national park
- 20** How can one penny harm the Old Faithful geyser in Yellowstone National Park, according to “Are Our Nation’s Treasures In Danger?”
- A** Melted copper from pennies can affect the chemical makeup of the springs.
 - B** Countless visitors, each throwing one penny, could permanently clog the vent.
 - C** Pennies and other shiny coins attract unwanted wildlife to Old Faithful.
 - D** Pennies can chip the rock around the base of the vent, making it unstable.
- 21** Which states the author’s **main** purpose for writing “Are Our Nation’s Treasures in Danger?”
- A** to describe the attractions in several popular national parks
 - B** to explain the punishments for breaking the law in the national parks
 - C** to persuade readers to avoid the national parks with fragile ecosystems
 - D** to make readers aware of the damage done to national parks by visitors
- 22** Which statement is supported by the information in “Are Our Nation’s Treasures in Danger?”
- A** Most people who visit the most popular national parks want to harm them.
 - B** People sometimes fail to consider the effects of their own actions.
 - C** One person’s actions can’t have an effect on our national parks.
 - D** Park rangers have no power to enforce the rules in the national parks.

23

How does the author of "Are Our Nation's Treasures in Danger?" express the idea that he favors a gentle approach to dealing with destructive visitors?

- A He explains how much damage carelessness can cause the parks.
- B He suggests that fewer people should come to the national parks.
- C He warns about fines and other punishments for visitors who cause damage in parks.
- D He quotes two park representatives who say that visitors are not bad people.

24

How does paragraph 6 contribute to the development of the ideas in "Underused Parks Work to Create Awareness, Access"?

- A It provides details by comparing the sizes of various national parks.
- B It supports the main idea by explaining why one park has so few visitors.
- C It helps the writer's argument by listing the states that have national parks.
- D It proves that it is possible to reach even the most remote parks in the system.

25

Read this sentence from "Underused Parks Work to Create Awareness, Access."

And visitors to Congaree tell of its serenity—a tree-filled enclave amid suburbia.

What does the word "serenity" mean in this sentence?

- A truth
- B shelter
- C peacefulness
- D helpfulness

26

Which sentence from "Underused Parks Work to Create Awareness, Access" **best** supports the idea that the general public is unaware of Congaree National Park?

- A "Seven hundred miles from Dry Tortugas, in South Carolina, is Congaree National Park where trees reaching 167 feet tall watch over its otter- and heron-filled floodplains."
- B "For Congaree, in relatively temperate South Carolina, weather does not deter many visitors."
- C "As a national park, however, Congaree is still in its infancy."
- D "Since Congaree became a national park, attendance has nearly doubled, but to eventually attract the crowds it deserves, the park has to take part in some self-promotion."

27

With which of these opinions is the author of "Underused Parks Work to Create Awareness, Access" **most likely** to agree?

- A The National Park Service should do even more to promote underused parks.
- B The National Park Service should offer free shuttles to Dry Tortugas Park.
- C Underused parks cost taxpayers too much and should be sold or closed.
- D Our underused national parks should remain our "best-kept secrets."

28

How does the author of "Underused Parks Work to Create Awareness, Access" show his opinion of the parks?

- A by describing "swarms of mosquitoes" and negative 50 degree temperatures
- B by explaining where each park is located and how to get there
- C by calling the parks "natural treasures" and "hidden gems"
- D by stating that each park is on the list of national parks with the fewest visitors

Go On

29 According to "Underused Parks Work to Create Awareness, Access," what was the impact of changing Congaree from a national monument to a national park?

- A** The federal government took over management of the park.
- B** The size of the park increased to include the Mississippi River.
- C** The state was required to create better roads to serve the park.
- D** There was a sharp increase in the number of visitors to the park.

30 What advice would the author of "Are Our Nation's Treasures In Danger?" **most likely** give park officials at the parks described in "Underused Parks Work to Create Awareness, Access"?

- A** In the long run, too few visitors is better for your park than too many visitors.
- B** Adding roads, campgrounds, and lodges would increase visitor traffic.
- C** Watch out for tourists who try to throw pennies and other objects at geysers.
- D** Online advertisements with images of the parks will help boost attendance.

31 How do the two authors approach the topic of national park attendance **differently**?

- A** Passage 1 focuses on the beauty of our national parks. Passage 2 looks at the destruction caused by visitors to our national parks.
- B** Passage 1 focuses on the negative effect visitors have on the parks. Passage 2 focuses on the positive effects the parks can have on visitors.
- C** Passage 1 expresses anger and dislike toward park visitors. Passage 2 shows kindness and warmth toward park visitors.
- D** Passage 1 compares the sizes of the most-visited parks. Passage 2 compares the location of the least-visited parks.

Read the poem. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Song of Wandering Aengus¹

*"The Song of Wandering Aengus" from The Poetical Works of William B. Yeats
by William Butler Yeats, Macmillan & Company, 1906.*

I went out to the hazel wood,
Because a fire was in my head,
And cut and peeled a hazel wand,
And hooked a berry to a thread;
5 And when white moths were on the wing,
And moth-like stars were flickering out,
I dropped the berry in a stream
And caught a little silver trout.

10 When I had laid it on the floor
I went to blow the fire aflame,
But something rustled on the floor,
And someone called me by my name:
It had become a glimmering girl
With apple blossom in her hair
15 Who called me by my name and ran
And faded through the brightening air.

20 Though I am old with wandering
Through hollow lands and hilly lands,
I will find out where she has gone,
And kiss her lips and take her hands;
And walk among long dappled grass,
And pluck till time and times are done
The silver apples of the moon,
The golden apples of the sun.

¹ **Aengus:** God of love in Celtic mythology

Go On

- 32 Which line in the first stanza of the poem suggests that the speaker was alive with new ideas?
- A "I went out to the hazel wood"
 - B "Because a fire was in my head"
 - C "And moth-like stars were flickering out"
 - D "I dropped the berry in a stream"

- 33 Which statement **best** describes the impact of the alliteration in the line "I went to blow the fire aflame"?
- A The soothing *f* sound reflects the confident state of the speaker's mind after he finds the girl.
 - B The harsh *f* sound mirrors the fear the speaker feels when the glimmering girl appears.
 - C The emphasized *f* sound imitates the rustling sound the speaker hears on the floor.
 - D The repeated *f* sound mimics the sound the speaker made when blowing on the fire.

- 34 Read these lines from the poem.

It had become a glimmering girl
With apple blossom in her hair

The word "glimmering" in these lines **most closely** means

- A dancing
 - B thrilling
 - C sparkling
 - D whispering
- 35 In the third stanza of the poem, what quest does the speaker undertake?
- A to return home and recapture his youth
 - B to return to the hazel wood
 - C to find the glimmering girl once again
 - D to go to the stream where he caught the silver trout

36 What theme does Yeats reveal through his poem?

- A Be careful when you try new experiences.
- B Some things are worth searching for.
- C Love is more important than wealth.
- D Sharing is the best way to show affection.

37 How does Yeats develop the theme in the poem?

- A by telling about the speaker's history of seeing things that are not real and then expressing sadness that the speaker cannot see reality
- B by contrasting the happiness the speaker feels in the beginning while he is fishing with the anger he feels after becoming an old man who no longer fishes
- C by explaining the steps the speaker took to catch the trout and then describing the process it took to transform into a mysterious creature
- D by describing the speaker's fateful meeting with a mysterious creature and then explaining his plans to continue to search for the creature

38 What is the importance of the poem's structure in three stanzas?

- A Each stanza shows the speaker fishing in a different setting.
- B Each stanza shows a different scene from the speaker's life.
- C Each stanza has a different meter and rhyme scheme.
- D Each stanza tells a different myth about Aengus, the god of love.

Go On

Which of the following is the **best** summary of the poem?

- A An old man wanders in search of a beautiful girl. The girl had transformed from a fish caught many years ago.
- B An old man wanders in search of a beautiful girl. He met the girl during a fishing trip many years ago.
- C An old man wanders the land and fishes in every stream. He wants to catch a fish as beautiful as the first fish he ever caught.
- D An old man wanders to a stream and makes a fishing rod out of a branch. He tries to catch a fish called "the glimmering girl."