RIA

Find it techniques and system to speed up:

Finger scan:

12. The author mentions a Cowboy wearing boots with gold spurs in order to:

Bear claw:

15. In the passage, as the farmer's horse in the barn prepares to get a saddle...

Snapshot:

17. According to the narrator, Captain Kurk of Star trek is the only one who has a gold belt.

Effective Methods for Capturing Cattle Rustlers

The comments of the comments o

What to do if you feel slow:

Passage IV

NATURAL SCIENCE: This passage is adapted from an essay by David Quammen that appeared in *The New York Times* on June 28, 1996 (©1996 by The New York Times).

Why do island creatures go extinct? The reasons are complicated, but at their base lie two simple factors: population size and population fluctuation. All populations fluctuate in size, from year to year, in response to the good conditions (gentle weather, abundant food) and the bad conditions (drought, harsh winters, famine) they encounter; and small populations are more likely to fluctuate to zero when conditions are bad, since zero is never far away.

With less margin of security, a small population is also more vulnerable to the various forms of human persecution and natural catastrophe that can deliver a coup de grâce. Therefore, small populations face a greater risk of extinction than big populations. And island populations—including those trapped within ecological islands, such as a park surrounded by development—tend to be small.

For instance, within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, which encompasses both Yellowstone and 20 Grand Teton National Parks, plus portions of seven national forests, there are no more than 300 or 400 grizzly bears, utterly isolated from grizzly populations elsewhere. Three hundred is probably too small for comfort, and so this Yellowstone population shares at 25 least some of the jeopardy of the most famous of all extinct island birds, the dodo.

An important corollary of the island syndrome is that small islands generally support fewer species than big islands do. Why? Because small islands support bigger populations of each species, and therefore endure fewer extinctions. Biologists refer to that as the species-area relationship.

All of this carries implications for the national parks, designated wildernesses, wildlife reserves, and other forms of protected natural landscape set aside in our country or any other. One of the main premises behind establishing those parks and reserves is that, by protecting in perpetuity a patch of landscape, we can protect in perpetuity the ecological community within it. We can save species. But four decades of modern scientific thinking about the species-area relationship, combined with recent research by William Newmark, suggest that such protection isn't necessarily perpetual.

Sometimes it's only temporary. Insularized popu-45 lations go extinct, even when the island is protected by act of Congress. In a paper published in the journal Conservation Biology last year, Newmark reported that 29 mammal populations have disappeared from national parks in western North America due to no other factor 50 than the island syndrome.

The red fox is missing from Bryce Canyon National Park in southern Utah. The mink is gone from

Yosemite. The river ofter, the spotted skunk and the ermine are absent from Crater Lake National Park in Oregon—not hunted out, not poisoned out, but apparently squeezed out by the sheer insularity of their situation.

Newmark listed all 29 cases with documentation, and noted a telling pattern: the smaller the park, the more mammal species lost. His conclusion: "Areas considerably larger than most parks in western North America will need to be managed if the historical mammal faunal assemblages within the parks are to be reestablished."

The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is one such larger area, and so far it seems to have suffered no island-syndrome losses. But the grizzly bear, with its big territorial demands and small population, is at risk. By the time your great-grandchildren visit Yellowstone, to it could be gone.

Meanwhile, even the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grows ever smaller and more tattered. Timber sales reduce the wooded acreage of its national forests, a major gold mine is threatened just outside the park's northeast corner, and habitat is being lost to housing sprawl on private lands. As the Yellowstone island becomes smaller, the prognosis for the big bear becomes gloomier.

But it isn't just Yellowstone and it isn't just the grizzly. All over the world, the exigent needs and demands of people have left natural landscapes reduced and fragmented. Nature itself, in the form of richly diverse ecological communities, has been separated from humanity and compartmentalized, the compartments being those smallish reserves, refuges and national parks that we feel we can conveniently afford to set aside.

The message of the species-area relationship, and of William Newmark's work, is that this approach won't do. Nature can't be compartmentalized. Nature isn't convenient. Nature is inherently big.

- 31. Throughout this passage, the author uses the term island to describe a tract of land that:
 - A. encompasses several national forests.
 - B. is protected from human-caused catastrophes.
 - C. fluctuates in size and population.
 - D. is isolated by its surroundings.

- 32. As he reveals himself through the information presented in this passage, the author can best be described as being:
 - F. angry with government policy pertaining to environmental law.
 - G. concerned about saving species of animals from extinction.
 - H. fearful that overpopulation of one animal species will destroy another species.
 - confident that the U.S. national park system can be restructured.
- 33. According to the passage, what is the main reason Yellowstone currently supports only 300-400 grizzlies?
 - A. Pollution has reduced their numbers.
 - B. Yellowstone is the smallest park in the West.
 - C. Each bear requires a large amount of territory.
 - D. The gold-mining industry has encroached upon the grizzlies' habitat.
- **34.** According to the author, the main threat to the grizzly bear in Yellowstone is:
 - F. human interference.
 - G. overpopulation by smaller animals.
 - H. drought and harsh weather.
 - J. laws passed by Congress.
- 35. The information in the seventh paragraph (lines 51-57) is most likely meant to provide the reader with examples of:
 - A. what happens as a result of island syndrome.
 - B. how an ecological community survives.
 - C. an unprotected species-area relationship.
 - why certain animals are no longer found in North America.
- 36. When the author says, "Nature can't be compartmentalized" (line 90), he is most likely making an argument:
 - F. against Newmark's theory of the species-area relationship.
 - G. against creating small reserves from portions of diverse natural landscapes.
 - H. for the separation of humans from other animals but not the separation of one animal species from another.
 - J. for forested areas all over the world to be protected so that animals will also be protected.

- 37. When the author uses the phrase "natural catastrophe that can deliver a coup de grâce" (lines 12-13), he is referring to a:
 - A. clear warning sign that the population of a certain species of animal is growing smaller.
 - B. group of humans who eliminate a population of animals through hunting or other forms of persecution.
 - C. natural calamitous event that can cause a situation to turn from negative to positive.
 - D. situation such as extreme weather or lack of food that can cause the extinction of an animal species.
- 38. It can most reasonably be inferred from the passage that representatives in Congress who voted to establish the original national park system believed that:
 - F. they would protect forever the plant and animal species in those parks.
 - G. they were saving smaller animals from larger animals and human predators.
 - H. rather than lose them all, it was better to save at least some animal species from extinction.
 - J. the system was a temporary measure that would eventually have to be reconsidered.
- 39. According to the passage, after conducting his research on the twenty-nine mammal populations that have disappeared from national parks, William Newmark discovered that:
 - A. larger parks actually lost more species of mammals than did smaller parks.
 - B. the size of the park had no bearing on the number of mammals that were lost.
 - C. there was a direct relationship between the size of the park and the number of mammals lost.
 - D. there was a direct relationship between the size of the park and the particular species of mammals who lived there.
- 40. The author suggests that to solve the problem of island syndrome, national parks in western North America would need to:
 - F. be better insulated from surrounding areas.
 - G. contain fewer species of animals.
 - H. cover a larger land area.
 - J. have better management.

END OF TEST 3

STOP! DO NOT TURN THE PAGE UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO.

DO NOT RETURN TO A PREVIOUS TEST.