

**#1 - 37113 , #2 - 37115 , #3 - 58821 , #4 - 37117 , #5 - 37121 , #6 - 37119**

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Read the text and answer the questions.

**Wild in the City**

by Megan Hansen

At first glance, a vacant lot in a city might seem lifeless. But look closer. A dragonfly dances around a puddle. A frog darts from a drainpipe to snatch the dragonfly. From the rooftops, a hawk swoops down to grab the frog. Cities might have been built for humans, but wildlife is everywhere! When you think of wildlife, you might picture bears lumbering through the forest. But many animals have adapted to the sewers, parks, and alleys of the "concrete jungle." These areas provide a natural habitat for many species. Wild animals need food, water, space to hunt or hide, and a place to raise young. A city offers all of these.

The rooftops abound with winged wildlife. More than 200 bird species are found in the city, including blue jays, robins, doves, finches, crows, gulls, and woodpeckers. Peregrine falcons and ospreys nest on skyscrapers and bridges. New Yorkers also love to watch butterflies. Each year, thousands of monarch butterflies pass through the streets during their fall migration to Mexico. And let's not forget nature's insect control: bats. These winged mammals can eat eight mosquitoes, flies, or moths a minute. With up to 500 bats living in a single church belfry, that's 240,000 bugs an hour—gobbled up!

We've all seen squirrels, but have you ever spotted a raccoon, opossum, or skunk? Because these critters are nocturnal (active at night), few people ever see them. Raccoons will eat almost anything, including donuts, frogs, food wrappers, and sometimes the occasional kitten. These animals nest in sewers, attics, and in the ventilation systems of buildings.

New York's most unwelcome animal is surely the rat. Rats can climb over almost any barrier, chew through any wall, and swim in nearly any source of water, including sewer pipes. Humans have good reason to fear rats: They carry disease and can contaminate food and water.

What about the city's tiniest wildlife? Although you might not like to think about them, cockroaches are amazingly well adapted to city life. These insects can live for two months without food and haven't changed much since scurrying around with dinosaurs millions of years ago. No wonder they seem unstoppable! Earthworms are another urban crawler. These marvelous little wrigglers gobble up dead leaves, food scraps, and garbage and turn them into rich soil. Without worms, the trees, grass, and flowers of Central Park would not grow.

Sometimes New York gets unexpected visitors. As the forests surrounding New York fill with more and more people, wild animals are forced to find new homes. New Yorkers have spotted coyotes, white-tailed deer, and gray foxes in the city. A black bear was spotted wandering past a high school just 20 miles away from the city. And in 2009, a 30-foot-long humpback whale swam into New York Harbor. Biologists, engineers, and politicians work hard to make sure city wildlife stays healthy and interacts safely with humans. A special nest for four eaglets was constructed in New York's Inwood Park. Bald eagles, which were once endangered, can now be spotted flying over Central Park. So the next time you're in New York (or any other big city), take a moment to look up, look under, and look closer.

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## #1 - 37113

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Read this statement and the directions that follow.

Cockroaches are tough insects that can withstand harsh conditions.

Click on the sentence that **best** supports the inference.

What about the city's tiniest wildlife? Although you might not like to think about them, cockroaches are amazingly well adapted to city life. These insects can live for two months without food and haven't changed much since scurrying around with dinosaurs millions of years ago. No wonder they seem unstoppable! Earthworms are another urban crawler. These marvelous little wrigglers gobble up dead leaves, food scraps, and garbage and turn them into rich soil. Without worms, the trees, grass, and flowers of Central Park would not grow.

The following question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

**Part A**

Which statement **best** summarizes the central idea of the text?

- A. Humans should stay away from rats to stay safe.
- B. There are many different kinds of insects in cities.
- C. Birds can be found on the rooftops of many buildings in cities.
- D. Many animals live in cities even though people may not think so.

**Part B**

Which sentence from the text **best** shows an example of your answer in part A?

- A. "Cities might have been built for humans, but wildlife is everywhere."
- B. "Wild animals need food, water, space to hunt or hide, and a place to raise young."
- C. "The rooftops abound with winged wildlife."
- D. "Rats can climb over almost any barrier, chew through any wall, and swim in nearly any source of water, including sewer pipes."



### #3 - 58821

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Read the line from the text.

But many animals have adapted to the sewers, parks, and alleys of the “concrete jungle.”

What does the underlined phrase concrete jungle suggest about the author's point of view in the text?

- A. The author is showing that the city is designed to mimic a jungle.
- B. The author is supporting his belief that the city is an excellent place for animals.
- C. The author is supporting his belief that it is necessary for animals to live in jungles.
- D. The author is showing that the city has as many unique areas as the jungle does for animals.

### #4 - 37117

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Read the sentence from the text.

“They carry disease and can contaminate food and water.”

What does the use of the word contaminate suggest?

Select **two** options.

- A. Rats can cause food and water to be polluted.
- B. Rats often choose to relieve themselves in food and water.
- C. Rats can transfer diseases through food and water.
- D. Rats sometimes get sick from eating human food and water.
- E. Rats can make people very sick with their food and water.

Read the paragraph from the text.

"Sometimes New York gets unexpected visitors. As the forests surrounding New York fill with more and more people, wild animals are forced to find new homes. New Yorkers have spotted coyotes, white-tailed deer, and gray foxes in the city. A black bear was spotted wandering past a high school just 20 miles away from the city. And in 2009, a 30-foot-long humpback whale swam into New York Harbor. Biologists, engineers, and politicians work hard to make sure city wildlife stays healthy and interacts safely with humans. A special nest for four eaglets was constructed in New York's Inwood Park. Bald eagles, which were once endangered, can now be spotted flying over Central Park. So the next time you're in New York (or any other big city), take a moment to look up, look under, and look closer."

How does the paragraph affect the central idea of the text? Select **two** choices.

- A. The paragraph gives a vivid description of New York City.
- B. The paragraph shows how cities impact endangered species.
- C. The paragraph shows how the growth of cities changes the behavior of wildlife.
- D. The paragraph gives more examples of animals that live in cities.
- E. The paragraph gives an explanation of how bald eagles were endangered.
- F. The paragraph shows why whales have even made their way to New York City.

The following question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

**Part A**

What inference can be made about the author's opinion of animals living in the city?

- A. The author believes that people may be frightened by wild animals.
- B. The author believes that wild animals living in the city struggle to survive.
- C. The author believes that animals should stay in the wild and out of the city.
- D. The author believes that people can benefit from wild animals living in the city.

**Part B**

Which sentence from the text **best** supports your answer in part A?

- A. "Wild animals need food, water, space to hunt or hide, and a place to raise young."
- B. "These winged mammals can eat eight mosquitoes, flies, or moths a minute."
- C. "These animals nest in sewers, attics, and in the ventilation systems of buildings."
- D. "Bald eagles, which were once endangered, can now be spotted flying over Central Park."

#7 - 42155 , #8 - 42151 , #9 - 42161 , #10 - 42157

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Read the text and answer the questions.

**Why Do Cliff Swallows Live Together?**

by Jack Myers

Most of the birds we see build their nests in lonely, hard-to-find places. Most birdsongs are really bird language that says: "Stay away. This place is mine." So there's a surprise in thinking about cliff swallows