

TOEFL Practice 1

Factual, Non-factual and Inference questions

A) Heyerdahl gave other evidence for the South American origin of the Hanau Eepe. The stonework of the stone platforms called ahu was incredibly intricate, unlike any made by other Pacific Islanders. However, the Inca people of South America were famous for intricate stonework. Another piece of evidence Heyerdahl presented was the fact that the staple food of the Easter Islanders, the sweet potato, is not found in Polynesia. He believed that it came with the Hanau Eepe from South America.

DNA testing has proven that all Easter Islanders were in fact descended from Polynesians. The current theory is that the Hanau Momoko and Hanau Eepe were two of perhaps twelve clans of islanders, all of whom built statues. The “statue toppling wars” broke out among the clans as the island became over-populated. When one group won a victory over another, they toppled their enemies’ statues. Archaeologists say that the resemblance between the stonework of the Easter Islanders and that of the Inca is coincidental. As for the sweet potato, most scientists now believe that sweet potato seeds came to the island in the stomachs of sea birds.

1. According to modern theory, how did sweet potato seeds come to Easter Island?

- They were brought from South America.
- They were washed up by the waves.
- They were brought by Westerners in 1722.
- They were transported by sea birds.

2. The word intricate in line 2 is closest in meaning to

- Complicated
- Internal
- Intriguing
- flamboyant

B) What constitutes barriers depends on the species and its method of dispersal. Some are physical barriers. For land animals, bodies of water, chains of mountains, or deserts are effective. For example, the American bison spread throughout the open grasslands of North America, but in the southern part of the continent there are deserts, so the bison could not spread there. For aquatic creatures, strong currents, differences in salinity, or land areas may serve as barriers.

Some barriers involve competition with other species. A dandelion seed may be carried by the wind to bare ground, and if environmental factors are right, it may germinate. There is not much chance, however, that any individual seedling will survive. Most places that are suitable for the growth of dandelions are already occupied by other plants that are well

adapted to the area. The dandelion seedling must compete with these plants for space, water, light and nutrients. Facing such stiff competition, the chances of survival are slim.

For animals, some barriers are behavioral. The blue spotted salamander lives only on mountain slopes in the southern Appalachian Highlands. Although these creatures could survive in the river valleys, they never venture there. Birds that fly long distances often remain in very limited areas. Kirkland's warblers are found only in a few places in Michigan in the summer and fly to the Bahamas in winter. No physical barriers restrict the warblers to these two locations, yet they never spread beyond these boundaries. Brazil's Amazon River serves as a northern or southern boundary for many species of birds. They could freely fly over the river, but they seldom do.

There are three types of natural pathways by which organisms can overcome barriers. One type is called a corridor. A corridor consists of a single type of habitat that passes through various other types of habitat. North America's Rocky Mountains, which stretch from Alaska to Northern Mexico, is an example. Various types of trees, such as the Engelmann spruce, can be found not only at the northern end of the corridor in Alaska, but also at a higher elevations along the entire length of this corridor.

1. In this passage, the author does NOT provide a specific example of

- A bird that is affected by behavioral barriers.
- An aquatic animal that is blocked by physical barriers.
- A land animal that is affected by behavioral barriers.
- A tree that has spread by means of a corridor.

2. What does the author suggest about American bison?

- They spread to North America from South America.
- A body of water stopped them from spreading south.
- They require open grasslands to survive.
- They originally lived in deserts.

3. According to the author, which species is suitable for gorges in spite of the fact that they rarely set out there?

- The American Bison
- Kirkland's warblers
- The blue-spotted salamander
- The Engelmann spruce