Passage 1: Making Wise Use of Our Land

1 Areas of wilderness all over the world have been cleared to make way for roads, housing, and other types of construction. These projects are important and often necessary for a growing population. However, we must also try to preserve large areas of undeveloped land to protect the animals that live there.

2 Leaving land in its wild state helps ensure animals will have the resources they need. An animal such as a wolf must be able to find fresh water, hunt for food, and locate shelter. Destroying much of the forest where a wolf lives could make it much harder, or even impossible, for the animal to meet its needs. This is not just true of wolves, but all sorts of wildlife.

3 Some animals such as raccoons and squirrels do quite well in places with large populations of people. But others need plenty of room to roam away from towns and cities. Grizzly bears, for example, may travel over areas that are thousands of square kilometers. They also tend to avoid humans when possible. For animals like these, preserving large zones of wilderness is essential. Building roads near the grizzly bears' habitat exposes them to hunters, who are responsible for many grizzly bear deaths each year. Simply put: cutting down most of a forest for development and leaving a small part of it standing for wildlife endangers their lives.

4 Preserving habitats does not just benefit animals. It also helps people. Many humans feel a special connection to nature. Leaving undeveloped land alone gives people places where they can enjoy various outdoor activities. Towns with preserved forests, lakes, and ponds may even find that having this untouched land is good for business. Beautiful wilderness attracts people, which can produce mountains of profit. All in all, protecting the land we have left is a good idea for both wildlife and the humans who value it.

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Passage 2: Our Wilderness

5 The population of the planet is growing. To make space for more people, land is being cleared for housing and other developments. People need shelter to survive. Many fear that we are losing our wilderness through overdevelopment. However, nearly half of the earth's land is still wilderness. The United States alone has more than 2.3 billion acres of land. That is a lot of land, and the country has an estimated population of 329 million people. This population lives on less than 6 percent of the land area in the United States. Crops and pasture land take up 41 percent. The rest is wilderness.

6 It is true that animal populations have been affected by humans. A large portion of the bison population was exterminated when railroads were developed to connect the west and east coasts. However, there is still plenty of area for these animals to live and thrive. For example, grizzly bear populations are relatively steady and often underestimated. It is difficult to collect exact data on grizzly populations due to dense ground cover and the elusiveness of females with their cubs. The range of the grizzly is largely in the northeast corner of the United States and mostly in the Yellowstone National Forest—an area largely unpopulated by humans and protected as a national park.

7 While conservation of land is important, there is still a substantial amount of undeveloped land on the earth to ensure plants, insects, wildlife, and humans can enjoy it.

1. This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

Which sentence states the author's main point of view in Passage 1?

Ⓐ Most housing and other development projects are unnecessary.

Ⓑ Preserving large areas of wilderness is the only way to protect wildlife.

Ⓒ Preserving large areas of wilderness is the best way to help businesses.

Ⓓ Grizzly bears will become extinct if people continue to destroy wilderness.

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Part B

Which sentence from Passage 1 provides evidence for the answer in Part A?

Ⓐ "Areas of wilderness all over the world have been cleared to make way for roads, housing, and other types of construction." (paragraph 1)

Ⓑ "However, we must also try to preserve large areas of undeveloped land to protect the animals that live there." (paragraph 1)

Ⓒ "Some animals such as raccoons and squirrels do quite well in places with large populations of people." (paragraph 3)

Ⓓ "Towns with preserved forests, lakes, and ponds may even find that having this untouched land is good for business." (paragraph 4)

2. Which sentence from Passage 2 represents the author's main point of view?

Ⓐ "The population of the planet is growing." (paragraph 5)

Ⓑ "It is true that animal populations have been affected by humans." (paragraph 6)

Ⓒ "It is difficult to collect exact data on grizzly populations due to dense ground cover and the elusiveness of females with their cubs." (paragraph 6)

Ⓓ "While conservation of land is important, there is still a substantial amount of undeveloped land on the earth to ensure plants, insects, wildlife, and humans are able to enjoy it." (paragraph 7)

3. Which sentence describes the main text structures used in Passage 1 and Passage 2?

Ⓐ Both passages describe a series of causes and effects.

Ⓑ Both passages use a chronology text structure to describe events.

Ⓒ Passage 1 uses a comparison text structure, whereas Passage 2 describes a problem and solution.

Ⓓ Passage 1 describes a problem and solution, whereas Passage 2 uses a comparison text structure.

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4. Fill in the bubbles to select whether each option describes a point of view in Passage 1, Passage 2, or both passages.

	Passage 1	Passage 2	Both Passages
There is plenty of wilderness left.	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ
Housing development projects are often necessary.	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	Ⓕ
Conservation is important.	Ⓖ	Ⓗ	Ⓘ
Leaving small patches of land for animals is not enough.	Ⓙ	Ⓚ	Ⓛ

5. Fill in the bubbles to compare how Passage 1 and Passage 2 present information about habitat preservation.

	Passage 1	Passage 2	Both Passages
presents statistics showing how much land humans use	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ
explains that humans have caused the death of animals	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	Ⓕ
explains that grizzly populations are under-represented	Ⓖ	Ⓗ	Ⓘ
presents two main benefits of preserving wildlife	Ⓙ	Ⓚ	Ⓛ

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