

Name: _____

Date: _____

Grade: 5A/B/C**Subject:** Comprehension (Main Idea)**Section:** Elementary

➤ **Read the passage and then answer the questions that follow.**
(1.5 points each)

The National Parks

Each year, millions of visitors flock to one of our many national parks. Last year alone, nearly four million tourists visited the Grand Canyon, and over three million visited Yellowstone National Park. With their unmatched beauty, the national parks offer people a place to go to restore their energy. Through tourism, national parks also have an economic impact on nearby communities. Furthermore, the parks can be the last refuge for endangered plant and animal species, such as the giant redwoods of Sequoia National Park or the bison herds of Yellowstone. The parks we enjoy today, however, might not be around without the past efforts of a few individuals who supported an idea to protect the natural beauty of our country.

2 One of these individuals was the naturalist John Muir. In 1867, on his way west to San Francisco, John Muir walked through Yosemite and quickly recognized its incomparable beauty. He wrote that it was “by far the grandest of all special temples of Nature I was ever permitted to enter. . . .” Muir committed himself to learning as much about the wilderness as he could. In turn, he would pass this learning on to others in the many articles he wrote describing the beauty of the region. In order to protect Yosemite from the damage of litter, vandalism, overgrazing livestock, and overharvesting of timber, Muir became the voice behind a

government bill that would create Yosemite National Park. Soon other bills would follow, and Muir would continue his fight to make Americans understand the importance of protecting the wild. In 1901, Muir wrote a book about the national parks, which caught the attention of people all over the United States, including President Theodore Roosevelt.

At a young age, Theodore Roosevelt had shown signs of a passion that would strengthen throughout his lifetime. A trip to North Dakota in 1883 prompted him to purchase a ranch where he could enjoy riding through the Badlands. It was during this time that he witnessed the damage done to the land and its wildlife.

4 Roosevelt would take his ideas about conservation with him to the White House as the country's 26th president. He would go on to create the U.S. Forest Service, 51 federal bird reservations, 4 national game preserves, 150 national forests, and 5 national parks. So strong was his commitment to the wilderness, Roosevelt suspended a 1903 presidential speaking tour in order to spend two weeks camping in Yellowstone, where he gave a speech calling for its protection. While visiting Yosemite, Roosevelt camped for three days with John Muir, who showed the president around and persuaded him to make Yosemite Valley a part of the larger Yosemite National Park. After the trip, Roosevelt commented that there was no better person in the entire world with whom to see and appreciate Yosemite.

Roosevelt considered it of the utmost importance to leave "... this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us." His deeds matched his words. The natural beauty that tourists from around the world enjoy today in the country's national parks is largely due to the efforts of Roosevelt and Muir, individuals who devoted themselves to an idea that has benefitted all people.

1. What two main ideas are central to the passage?

- A.** Yosemite National Park is considered by many to be the most stunning of our national parks, and it was John Muir's favorite place to enjoy the wilderness.
- B.** Our national parks have preserved much of the country's natural beauty, and they came about mostly through the efforts of people like Muir and Roosevelt.
- C.** One of the most popular activities for tourists is visiting our country's national parks, and those parks have preserved and protected wilderness areas.
- D.** Without the national parks, many species, such as bison and redwoods, would probably be extinct by now, and anyone who wants to can visit them in the national parks.

2. Read the statement from paragraph 1.

... national parks also have an economic impact on nearby communities.

Which evidence from the passage best supports the author's statement?

- A.** "Each year, millions of visitors flock to one of our many national parks."
- B.** "Muir wrote a book... which caught the attention of people all over the United States."
- C.** "... the national parks offer people a place to go to restore their energy."
- D.** "...Roosevelt suspended a 1903 presidential speaking tour in order to spend two weeks camping in Yellowstone . . ."

3. Read the quote by John Muir from paragraph 2.

He wrote that it was “by far the grandest of all special temples of Nature I was ever permitted to enter. ...”

What does the quote reveal about Muir’s attitude toward Yosemite?

- A.** Yosemite looked like a magnificent building to him.
- B.** He thought of Yosemite as his second home.
- C.** Yosemite felt like a sacred place to him.
- D.** He thought human beings should not touch Yosemite

4. How does the author support the point made in paragraph 3 that Roosevelt’s love of the wilderness was a lifelong passion?

- A.** by sharing others’ opinions of Roosevelt
- B.** by describing things he did throughout his life
- C.** by comparing his work with that of John Muir
- D.** by explaining how he ran his North Dakota ranch

5. Read the sentence from the last paragraph.

Roosevelt considered it of the utmost importance to leave “. . . this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us.”

What is the meaning of the word utmost?

- A.** simplest
- B.** truest
- C.** oldest
- D.** greatest

6. Which statement best describes the relationship between John Muir and President Theodore Roosevelt?

- A.** They enjoyed going camping and hiking together.
- B.** They worked together to create all of the national parks.
- C.** They found a common bond in their mutual love of the wilderness.
- D.** They used their fame to bring attention to problems with the environment.

7. Which evidence from the passage best supports the inference that Theodore Roosevelt was most responsible for our National Park System? (1 point)
