

Exercise 3:

MEXICO CITY – Although it's hard to imagine in this age of urban sprawl and automobiles, North America once belonged to mammoths, camels, ground sloths as large as cows, bear-sized beavers, and other formidable beasts. Some 11,000 years ago, however, these large-bodied mammals and others – about 70 species in all – disappeared. Their demise coincided roughly with humans' arrival in the New World and dramatic climatic change – factors that have inspired several theories about the die-off. Yet despite decades of scientific investigation, the exact cause remains a mystery. Now new findings offer support to one of these controversial hypotheses: that human hunting drove this megafaunal menagerie to extinction. The overkill model emerged in the 1960s when it was put forth by Paul S. Martin of the University of Arizona. Since then, critics have charged that no evidence exists to support the idea that the first Americans hunted to the extent necessary to cause these extinctions. But at the annual meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology in Mexico City last October, paleoecologist John Alroy of the University of California at Santa Barbara argued that, in fact, hunting-driven extinction is not only plausible, but it was also unavoidable. Using a computer simulation, he has determined that even a very modest amount of hunting would have wiped these animals out.

Choose No More Than Two Words from the passage to complete the sentences.

1. North America was once a home to _____, camels, ground sloths, bear-sized beavers, and beasts.
2. About 11,000 years ago, large-bodied mammals and around _____ disappeared.
3. Even after decades of _____, the cause for the demise of these species still remains unknown.
4. The overkill model emerged in the 1960s and was put forth by _____ of the University of Arizona.
5. Paleoecologist John Alroy determined using a _____ that hunting could have destroyed these animals.

Exercise 4:

Despite the earlier success, however, negative repercussions of human activity have caused the return of water hyacinth to East African waters. Uganda's Lake Kyoga has recently once again experienced problems with the infestation. Sewage and agricultural waste making their way into the waterways and thereby creating an excess of nutrients in the water has been the main contributing factors to the re-emergence of water hyacinth. In addition, high levels of nitrogen in rainfall, which enter the water cycle from the smoke created by wood-burning, cooking fires used in the region, also serve as nutrition to the increasing plant population. Restriction of human activity on lakes such as this, caused by the infestation of water hyacinth, has enormous implications; villages such as Kayago, which is close to the lake, are often almost entirely dependent on fishing activity for their economy and food source.

Choose No More Than Two Words from the passage to complete the sentences.

1. The negative repercussions of human activities have led to the restoration of water hyacinth to the waters in _____.
2. Recently, Uganda's Kyoga lake experienced problems with _____.
3. _____ and _____ are creating an excess of nutrients in the water as contributing factors.
4. Wood burning and cooking fires serve as nutrition to the rising _____.
5. Kayago completely depends on _____ for their economy and food source.

Exercise 5:

Some people believe that traditional usages of language are always more superior and refined than modern variations even when the reasons behind the rule were dubious in the first place. For example, it was once seriously frowned upon to split an infinitive in a sentence, and even today it is considered grammatically incorrect to do so. To demonstrate, let's consider the following sentence: 'The examiner asked me to quietly leave the room'; this was considered incorrect as the word 'quietly' splits the infinitive of the verb 'to leave.' The origins of this rule hail back to the 17th century when scholars believed that the English language should be adapted to follow Latin rules; then considered the perfect language. Since splitting infinitives in Latin is impossible, it was decided that splitting infinitives in English, even though possible, was not acceptable. Given those initial motivations behind the rule were questionable. The clarity of the meaning of the sentence is not compromised in the 'incorrect' form, it could be argued that this grammar rule is a prime example of an unnecessary sanction that is likely to be abandoned in the future.

Choose No More Than Two Words from the passage to complete the sentences.

1. Traditional use of languages are said to be more _____ and _____.
2. Scholars affirmed that the English language should be adapted to follow the rules of _____.
3. Even though splitting infinitives in English was possible, it was not _____.
4. Rules like splitting infinitives are considered as _____.
5. Split infinitives are likely to be _____ in future.