



Aleutian Islands

- Between Russia and Alaska is a bird-watcher's paradise. Swinging out in an arc from underneath Alaska is a string of **lush**¹, beautiful islands called the Aleutians. These islands are the summer home of ten million **migrating**² birds, and you can also find many seals, sea lions, otters, and wildflowers here. The scenery is **stunning**³, but these islands are far **off the beaten track**⁴.
- The Aleutian Islands are part of the **Pacific**⁵ Ocean's Ring of Fire, meaning they are mostly volcanic. There are more than 300 islands in the chain, including 20 active volcanoes. The wet, cool weather makes the islands **fertile**⁶ ground for grasses, flowers, **mosses**⁷, and sedges. Photos of the islands are often **intensely**⁸ green. However, there are very few trees on the Aleutians, especially no tall ones because the wind there is so strong that their trunks would **snap**⁹.
- The islands look like a bridge, and scientists believe that the island chain was probably used by early humans to migrate from Eurasia to North America. The humans who settled in the islands were called Aleuts by the Russians who first **encountered**¹⁰ them. They usually call themselves Unangax, "coast people." The Unangax did live by the coasts. They fished and hunted to gather their food. They built houses partly underground, to protect themselves from the cold and the **fierce**¹¹ winds.
- Beginning in the mid-18th century, Russians began sending traders and **missionaries**¹² to the Aleutian Islands. This led to the **enslavement**¹³ and near **extermination**¹⁴ of the Aleutian people. There are estimated to be only about 2,000 native Aleutians on the islands and perhaps 15,000 people of some



▲ volcano of Aleutian Island

► Aleutian Islands are a bird-watchers' paradise.

Aleutian descent. With them goes their unique culture, which includes **intricate** tattooing, piercings, and other body art.

- ▣ The Aleutian Islands, seemingly far from everywhere, are still relatively **untamed**¹⁵ and **untrammelled**¹⁶. They have been designated as wilderness areas by the U.S. government, a status which should protect the islands' environments and help their human, plant, and animal populations recover.



Week 2

Day 1

Aleutian Islands

Questions

- ___ 1. What is the main topic of the article? •Main Idea•
- ▣ a The Aleut people.
 - ▣ b Migration over the Aleutian Islands.
 - ▣ c People, plants, and animals of the Aleutian Islands.
 - ▣ d Bird-watching on the Aleutian Islands.
- ___ 2. What does this article focus on? •Subject Matter•
- ▣ a A race of people.
 - ▣ b An animal.
 - ▣ c A country.
 - ▣ d A geographic area.
- ___ 3. Which statement is true? •Supporting Details•
- ▣ a The Aleutian Islands are a popular vacation destination.
 - ▣ b Aleut people came to the islands in the 1700s.
 - ▣ c Aleut people had tattoos and piercings.
 - ▣ d The Aleutian Islands are unprotected.
- ___ 4. Which of the following can we infer from the article? •Inference•
- ▣ a The people on the islands live in tree houses.
 - ▣ b The islands don't get many tourists.
 - ▣ c The islands are overcrowded.
 - ▣ d Nobody lived on the islands before 1700.
- ___ 5. The fourth paragraph says Aleutian tattoos are intricate. What does the word **intricate** mean? •Words in Context•
- ▣ a Offensive.
 - ▣ b Bold.
 - ▣ c Simple.
 - ▣ d Detailed.
- ___ 6. What does the second paragraph feature? •Clarifying Devices•
- ▣ a A definition.
 - ▣ b Supporting evidence for a theory.
 - ▣ c A vivid description.
 - ▣ d A reference to a study.

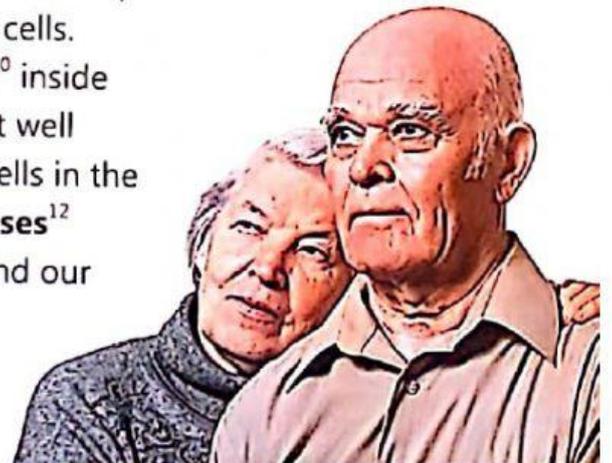


The Memory Eater



- Alzheimer's is a disease that takes people away before they die. It turns loved ones into strangers, homes into cages, and daily life into a series of unpleasant surprises. Alzheimer's disease is **estimated**¹ to affect four million people in the U.S. and 26 million people worldwide, and we still don't know exactly what causes it or how to **reverse**² it.
- Alzheimer's **symptoms**³ are often **confused with**⁴ the normal aging process. Difficulty forming new memories is usually the first symptom of Alzheimer's. People with Alzheimer's may remember the past clearly, but can't remember where they parked the car, why they drove to the mall, or what they spoke to their neighbors about three hours ago. As scientists continue to study the disease, however, it is becoming more and more clear that serious memory problems have little to do with age and everything to do with this **dreadful** disease. **Recognizing**⁵ the relation between memory loss and this serious medical **issue**⁶ could lead to detecting Alzheimer's earlier and managing it better.
- People with Alzheimer's develop **protein**⁷ buildups called **plaques**⁸ in the spaces between nerve cells. They also develop twisted **tangles**⁹ of **fibers**¹⁰ inside brain cells. These plaques and tangles are not well understood yet, but they seem to kill nerve cells in the brain. Nerve cells **transmit**¹¹ electrical **impulses**¹² that control our thoughts, our movements, and our words. As they die, we slowly lose control of these processes. As a consequence, the brain shrinks.

▼ Alzheimer's turns loved ones into strangers.





▲ As Alzheimer's progresses, patients lose their memories.

- As Alzheimer's progresses, patients lose their memories, their ability to move well, to carry on a conversation, and **eventually**¹³ to speak or take care of themselves at all. It is a long, painful process for patients and their loved ones, who can only watch as the patient **retreats**¹⁴ into a private, perhaps lonely world.
- As populations age, Alzheimer's becomes a bigger problem. Research is **ongoing**¹⁵. Perhaps soon doctors will be able to save patients' memories and lives.

Questions

- ___ 1. What is the main topic of the article? •Main Idea•
 - a How to detect Alzheimer's disease.
 - b Possible causes of Alzheimer's.
 - c The sad progress of Alzheimer's.
 - d New research in Alzheimer's.

- ___ 2. What does the article focus on? •Subject Matter•
 - a A disease.
 - b A medical study.
 - c The aging process.
 - d Memory.

- ___ 3. Which statement is NOT true? •Supporting Details•
 - a Alzheimer's is often mistaken for normal aging.
 - b Alzheimer's can be treated and reversed.
 - c Alzheimer's affects the brain.
 - d Alzheimer's patients lose nerve cells.

- ___ 4. If someone was in the early stages of Alzheimer's, what would be difficult for him or her to do? •Inference•
 - a Know what food he or she likes.
 - b Remember the names of new acquaintances.
 - c Talk about his or her parents.
 - d Remember his or her long-time address.

- ___ 5. The second paragraph describes Alzheimer's disease as being dreadful. What does the word **dreadful** mean? •Words in Context•
 - a Terrible.
 - b Deadly.
 - c Curable.
 - d Rapid.

- ___ 6. What is the author's tone in this article? •Author's Tone•
 - a Cruel.
 - b Curious.
 - c Humorous.
 - d Compassionate.



▼ Victims of ransomware face a dilemma: pay up, or kiss their files goodbye.

Kidnapping a Computer

- ❑ It's Sunday morning. You sit down at your desk, ready to put the finishing touches on a big project. You turn the computer on and wait for your desktop to appear. But **instead of**¹ that familiar cat picture, you see something else entirely. A screen says your files are **encrypted**², and you can't **access**³ them. You have to pay \$500 within four days, or your entire hard drive will be deleted.
- ❑ You are a victim of ransomware.
- ❑ Ransomware is a new type of computer **virus**⁴. It used to be that **cyber**⁵ **criminals**⁶ would create viruses to cause trouble. They just wanted to "watch the world burn." But somewhere along the line, these people learned that they could actually profit from their criminal **behavior**⁷. Here's where ransomware comes in. Ransomware locks part of a computer's functions, and asks the victim for payment to open them again. Some ransomware prevents Windows from starting. Other types encrypt important files or stop certain apps from running. But ransomware will always ask for a **ransom**—there's always a way to "make it stop." That's how it got its name.
- ❑ Victims of ransomware face a **brutal**⁸ choice: pay up, or kiss their files goodbye. Research from cybersecurity firms found that only around 5% of people actually consider paying. Yet that 5% still adds up to a lot of money. The FBI estimates that



▲ Ransomware asks for a ransom.

cyber criminals raised around \$1 billion from ransomware attacks in 2016. The amount that victims are being asked to pay is also going up over time. Ransomware **demand**⁹ an average payment of \$294 in 2015. By 2016, that number had increased to \$679.



▲ Watch out for your email attachment. There may be a virus in it.

▢ You're probably thinking "ransomware sounds awful! How can I avoid being **infected**¹⁰?" Luckily, there's a way: stop opening all of those emails from Nigerian princes and long-lost **relatives**¹¹! Most ransomware spreads **via**¹² links or attachments in emails. Just be careful where you click, and you should be fine.

Questions

- ___ 1. Which sentence is closest to the main point?..... •Main Idea•

 - a Ransomware is an old problem with a new name.
 - b Ransomware locks a computer function and asks for payment.
 - c Ransomware is mostly spread through links and attachments in emails.
 - d Ransomware can prevent Windows from starting.

- ___ 2. What does this passage describe?..... •Subject Matter•

 - a A large sum of money.
 - b A useful function.
 - c A type of computer virus.
 - d An email attachment.

- ___ 3. Which of the following sentences about ransomware is NOT true?..... •Supporting Details•

 - a The average payment is going down.
 - b Only 5% of people consider paying up.
 - c It usually spreads through emails.
 - d It can stop certain applications from working.

- ___ 4. Which of the following statements about ransomware is probably true?..... •Inference•

 - a It can't affect computers that are connected to the Internet.
 - b Most victims believe that even if they pay, it won't fix their computers.
 - c It is only a problem in the northern United States.
 - d Most criminals have given up on it because it doesn't make money.

- ___ 5. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **ransom** in the third paragraph?..... •Words in Context•

 - a An evil deed done to someone who is innocent.
 - b Something that is mysterious and largely unknown.
 - c A fee paid to someone who assists you.
 - d Money demanded in exchange for releasing a prisoner.

- ___ 6. What is the author's tone in this passage?..... •Author's Tone•

 - a Serious.
 - b Tragic.
 - c Humorous.
 - d Grim.

Questions

- ___ 1. What is the main topic of the article? •Main Idea•
- a A history of ASL. b A history of sign languages.
 c How to learn sign language. d A history of a school.
- ___ 2. What does the article mainly deal with? •Subject Matter•
- a A nation's history. b A method of communication.
 c A scholar. d A medical condition.
- ___ 3. Which statement is true? •Supporting Details•
- a The first free school for the deaf was opened in Germany.
 b ASL has existed since ancient times.
 c Sign language is very similar to spoken language.
 d ASL and French sign language share many similarities.
- ___ 4. Why have sign languages existed for thousands of years? •Inference•
- a Because schools taught them.
 b Because deafness used to be more common.
 c Because humans always find a way to communicate with each other.
 d Because sign languages were popular among ancient Greeks and Romans.
- ___ 5. The third paragraph mentions French influence on ASL.
What does **influence** mean? •Words in Context•
- a Complete control of a person or process.
 b Disdain or lack of support for something or someone.
 c Support or obligation to a cause.
 d The power to cause an effect on something or someone else.
- ___ 6. What does the writer do in the fourth paragraph? •Clarifying Devices•
- a Start with a broad statement and follow it with examples.
 b Present a series of causes and effects.
 c Use logical reasoning to explain his or her thesis.
 d Use sarcasm to show an opinion.

Questions

- ___ 1. What is the main topic of the article? •Main Topic•
- a** How and where sunspots occur.
 - b** Theories about sunspots and weather.
 - c** What sunspots are and how they can affect us.
 - d** The sunspot cycle throughout history.
- ___ 2. What does this article focus on? •Subject Matter•
- a** An electrical phenomenon.
 - b** A planet.
 - c** An old theory.
 - d** A kind of storm.
- ___ 3. Which statement is true? •Supporting Details•
- a** Sunspots last for minutes.
 - b** Sunspots were the cause of the last ice age.
 - c** Solar wind can knock out the Northern Lights.
 - d** Sunspots move around on the sun.
- ___ 4. What can we infer from this article about a speck? •Inference•
- a** It is large.
 - b** It is relatively small.
 - c** It is hot.
 - d** It is cold.
- ___ 5. The first sentence says the sun is not a uniform ball of fire.
What does **uniform** mean? •Words in Context•
- a** Having only one origin.
 - b** Hot or combustible.
 - c** The same all the time.
 - d** The strongest.
- ___ 6. What does the writer do in the fifth paragraph? •Clarifying Devices•
- a** Cite a scientific study.
 - b** Tell a personal story.
 - c** Make an emotional appeal.
 - d** Disprove a theory.

Questions

- ___ 1. What is the main topic of the article? •Main Idea•
- a Endangered species that live in the Great Barrier Reef.
 - b The best time to visit the Great Barrier Reef.
 - c What the Great Barrier Reef is.
 - d How the Great Barrier Reef grew.
- ___ 2. What is this article mainly about? •Subject Matter•
- a An ecosystem.
 - b A sea mammal.
 - c A country.
 - d An event.
- ___ 3. Which of the following statements is NOT true? •Supporting Details•
- a Humpback whales spend time at the Great Barrier Reef.
 - b The Great Barrier Reef lies off the coast of Australia.
 - c Four hundred kinds of coral live at the Great Barrier Reef.
 - d The Great Barrier Reef is 2,800 kilometers long.
- ___ 4. What can we infer about Queensland from the article? •Inference•
- a It's in the Great Barrier Reef.
 - b It's an endangered species.
 - c It's part of Australia.
 - d It's part of a rain forest.
- ___ 5. In the fourth paragraph, the author says the Reef isn't invulnerable.
What does **invulnerable** mean? •Words in Context•
- a Impossible to harm or damage.
 - b Dangerous or threatening.
 - c Vast or infinite.
 - d Intricate and complicated.
- ___ 6. How does the author end the article? •Clarifying Devices•
- a With a joke.
 - b With a warning.
 - c With an interesting statistic.
 - d With words of praise.