

Active Reading**Section: The Future of Biodiversity**

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

In 1973, the U.S. Congress passed the **Endangered Species Act** and has amended it several times since. This law is designed to protect plant and animal species in danger of extinction. Under the first provision, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) must compile a list of all endangered and threatened species in the United States. As of 2002, 983 species of plants and animals were listed as endangered or threatened. Dozens more are considered for the list each year. The second main provision of the act protects listed species from human harm. Anyone who harms, buys, or sells any part of these species is subject to a fine. The third provision prevents the federal government from carrying out any project that jeopardizes a listed species.

IDENTIFYING MAIN IDEAS

One reading skill is the ability to identify the main idea of a passage. The main idea is the main focus or key idea. Frequently, a main idea is accompanied by supporting information that offers detailed facts about main ideas.

In the space provided, write the letter of the term or phrase that best answers each question.

- _____ 1. What law protects plant and animal species in danger of extinction?
a. the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service **c.** the species recovery plan
b. the Endangered Species Act **d.** the captive breeding plan
- _____ 2. Who was responsible for passing this law?
a. the state of California **c.** the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
b. Greenpeace **d.** the U.S. Congress
- _____ 3. Who is responsible for compiling a list of all endangered and threatened species in the U.S.?
a. the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service **c.** individual states
b. the U.S. Congress **d.** forest rangers

Read each question and write the answer in the space provided.

4. How many species were listed as endangered or threatened in 2002?

5. Who or what is restricted by the third provision of the Endangered Species Act?

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6. How does the third provision protect plant and animal species that are in danger of extinction?

7. Who or what is restricted by the second provision of the Endangered Species Act?

VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

In the space provided, write the letter of the term or phrase that best completes each statement or best answers each question.

_____ 8. The second sentence in the passage begins, "This law." To what do those words refer?

- a. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service c. the third provision
b. the second provision d. the Endangered Species Act

_____ 9. What words does the author use to organize the information in the passage?

- a. first, second, third
b. U.S. Congress, Fish and Wildlife Service, federal government
c. endangered, extinct
d. threatened, endangered, extinct

RECOGNIZING CAUSE AND EFFECT

One reading skill is the ability to recognize cause and effect.

Read each question and write the answer in the space provided.

10. Because of the first provision of the Endangered Species Act, what is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service required to do?

11. What consequence must any violator of the second provision of the Endangered Species Act face?

12. What actions are considered violations of the second provision?
