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Weekly Test Lesson 8

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Crystal River Preserve State Park

Come and explore Crystal River Preserve State Park! It is one of the most beautiful places in Florida! The preserve occupies a 20-mile-long stretch of the Gulf of Mexico. It lies between temperate and subtropical climate zones. The sparkling waters of the Crystal River are located in this unique place. In addition, the park contains coastal marshes and forests. It also includes inlets, grass flats, islands, and still backwaters.

The Crystal River, one of the Outstanding Florida Waters, is known for the fascinating animals that live there: manatees. The manatee, an endangered species, looks like a cross between a walrus and an elephant. This mammal is also called a sea cow. In the past, it has been hunted for its bones, skin, and oil. Today, manatees are protected by laws that prevent these practices.

From mid-autumn to early spring, the largest herd of manatees in the United States comes to enjoy the warm, spring-fed river. A spring is a natural source of water that bubbles or flows up from underground. The springs that feed the Crystal River are at a constant, manatee-friendly temperature of 72 degrees. Visitors to the area can swim with the manatees and other river animals!

The preserve has a wide variety of animals and plants. Walkers can view about two hundred species of birds. These include anhingas, bald eagles, and wild turkeys. The anhinga is a waterbird with a curvy neck and a long, sharp bill. It is less waterproof than many other waterbirds are. It does not produce as much natural oil for its feathers. It has to stand with its wings open in the sun so it can warm up and dry off. Visitors to the preserve can also spot alligators, foxes, terrapins, dolphins, and deer. Plant life includes tall sawgrass (watch out for those tiny teeth!), longleaf pines, mangrove trees, palm trees, and cordgrass.

Many types of butterflies also stop in Crystal River Preserve State Park. The zebra butterfly's official name is *Heliconius charithonia*. It is common mostly in the states on the Gulf Coast, where it lives year-round. Even though this butterfly has yellow stripes instead of white ones, it still looks like a zebra. The wingspan of a zebra butterfly is about three or four inches. These insects are busy during the day. They rest in big groups at night. They also eat flowers that make their bodies poisonous. This helps them stay safe from predators.

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The preserve is a good place to see a special kind of limestone. It is called karst. This type of rock is common in places with caves, sinkholes, and springs. It is gray and filled with holes of many different sizes. Karst formations can look like towers or jagged teeth.

There are many activities to keep park visitors busy at Crystal River. The most popular activities are hiking on nature trails and birdwatching. Visitors can also enjoy biking, fishing, kayaking, canoeing, and taking guided boat tours. Guests can stop in at the visitor center. There, they can find useful information about the preserve, its habitats, and its wildlife, including exhibits on snakes and diamondback terrapins.

As long as it is protected, Crystal River Preserve State Park will always be a place of beauty.

1 Read the paragraph from the text.

This mammal is also called a sea cow. In the past, it has been hunted for its bones, skin, and oil. Today, manatees are protected by laws that prevent these practices.

What does the word prevent mean?

- (A) to happen more
- (B) to happen again
- (C) to keep happening
- (D) to stop from happening

2 Why do anhingas stand with their wings open in the sun? Use details from the text in your response.

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Reading

- 3 Read the sentences from the text.

They also eat flowers that make their bodies poisonous. This helps them stay safe from predators.

What does the word predators mean as it is used in the text?

- Ⓐ types of plants
- Ⓑ animals that eat plants
- Ⓒ animals that eat other animals
- Ⓓ animals that are eaten by other animals

- 4 Read the paragraph from the text.

The preserve is a good place to see a special kind of limestone. It is called karst. This type of rock is common in places with caves, sinkholes, and springs. It is gray and filled with holes of many different sizes. Karst formations can look like towers or jagged teeth.

What does the word formations mean as it is used in this paragraph?

- Ⓐ holes
- Ⓑ caves
- Ⓒ shapes
- Ⓓ springs

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Reading

- 5 Mark the boxes to connect the scientific ideas.

	They need warm water during the cold months.	The water comes from underground.	They are warning other animals not to eat them.
Zebra butterflies eat poisonous flowers.			
Manatees migrate to Crystal River Preserve State Park from mid-autumn to early spring.			
The springs that feed the Crystal River are at a constant temperature.			

- 6 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

Which of the following **best** explains the author's purpose for writing this text?

- (A) to convince readers that Crystal River Preserve is the country's best state park
- (B) to inform readers about the state park and what it has to offer
- (C) to offer a different point of view about state parks
- (D) to determine whether or not the area is beautiful

Part B

Which of the following **best** supports the answer in part A?

- (A) Each paragraph focuses on a feature of the park.
- (B) Plants and animals are the only topics discussed in the text.
- (C) The author says that the park is one of the most beautiful places in Florida.
- (D) The text states that Crystal River Preserve State Park will always be a place of beauty.

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Writing

- 7 Which sentence is written incorrectly?
- (A) It is very hot, or I want to jump in the pool.
 - (B) The video wouldn't play, but now we fixed it.
 - (C) My dog enjoys being bathed and having his fur brushed.
 - (D) I went in the house and closed the front door behind me.
- 8 Which sentence contains an error in grammar usage?
- (A) Recess will be indoors although it won't stop raining.
 - (B) Since I went to bed early, I was not tired the next day.
 - (C) Kim wants to wear a sweater because it is too cold today.
 - (D) Before he went to class, Satya made sure to get his books from his locker.
- 9 Which sentence is written incorrectly?
- (A) The class was well behaved and was able to go on a field trip to the bakery.
 - (B) When Davis is good at baseball or he does not like to play it.
 - (C) The dog loves to go for walks and play fetch.
 - (D) Sam loves playing and watching football.
- 10 Read the following sentences. Underline the word that is spelled incorrectly.
- It is important that you handle the two figurines carefully because they brake easily.