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Jan & Feb Jumpstart 2024 Gold Course

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Strange Happenings

More extreme weather events leading to outages.

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We'll make up the class on Friday evening.

Center for Success with Froggy

Urbanization and Wildlife

1: Urbanization, the process of population migration from rural areas to cities, has a profound impact on wildlife and ecosystems. As cities expand, previously undeveloped land, including forests, wetlands, and grasslands, is transformed to accommodate the growing needs of the urban population. The expansion may occur through the construction of residential areas, commercial spaces, roads, and infrastructure. This transformation leads to the alteration or complete loss of the original natural environment, impacting ecosystems and displacing wildlife that once thrived in those areas. The effects of urbanization on biodiversity can be complex, involving changes in habitat, food sources, and interactions between species.

2: One key consequence of urbanization is the fragmentation of natural habitats. As cities grow, green spaces are often divided into smaller, isolated patches. This fragmentation can disrupt the movement and migration patterns of wildlife, making it difficult for species to access necessary resources. Moreover, the presence of roads, buildings, and other structures can create barriers, limiting the ability of animals to navigate through their habitats. In burgeoning urban areas, the construction of infrastructure disrupts the natural landscapes that animals depend on, creating physical barriers and altering established migration routes. These barriers can lead to habitat fragmentation, isolating populations and hindering the free movement of species. Additionally, the introduction of unfamiliar structures can confuse animals, affecting their ability to locate essential resources

3: Another impact of urbanization is the alteration of food sources for wildlife. In urban environments, certain species may thrive on human-generated food, such as discarded waste. This can lead to changes in the abundance and distribution of wildlife populations. For example, some species, like raccoons, pigeons, and certain rodent species, showcase remarkable adaptability to urban environments. They not only tolerate human presence but also capitalize on novel food resources provided by urban settings, such as discarded food in garbage bins or insects attracted to artificial lights. In thriving amidst human development, these species often experience population increases. On the other hand, more specialized species, like some songbirds or certain types of amphibians, may struggle in urban landscapes. They might face challenges in finding suitable sustenance, for instance, as urbanization alters the availability of specific insects or plant varieties they rely on. This struggle for survival can have cascading effects on their reproductive capabilities and, in some cases, lead to declining populations or local extinctions.

4: Urbanization also introduces new risks for wildlife, such as exposure to pollutants and increased interactions with humans. Urban areas often have higher levels of pollution, including air and water contamination. Consider a scenario where a river passes through a bustling city. The water in this river might be contaminated with industrial runoff, chemicals, and other pollutants discharged from urban activities. Fish and other aquatic species relying on this water source are exposed to these harmful substances, affecting their health and overall population dynamics. Similarly, airborne pollutants in urban areas, such as exhaust from vehicles and industrial emissions, can have detrimental effects on birds and small mammals, impacting their

respiratory health and long-term survival. Wildlife living in these environments may suffer from health issues and reduced reproductive success. Mercury, often released into water bodies through industrial discharges and urban runoff, can undergo a process called biomethylation, transforming into methylmercury, which bioaccumulates in aquatic organisms, particularly in fish. Once there, it interferes with the endocrine system, disrupting the synthesis and function of hormones that play crucial roles in reproduction. In some fish species, exposure to elevated levels of methylmercury has been linked to impaired gamete development, reduced fertility, and altered reproductive behaviors.

5: Understanding the dynamics of wildlife responses to urbanization is crucial for developing conservation strategies that promote coexistence between humans and the natural world. Consider a wetland ecosystem on the outskirts of a city, suffering from pollution and habitat loss. A comprehensive conservation strategy would involve habitat restoration initiatives. This might encompass the removal of pollutants, reintroduction of native plant species, and the creation of suitable conditions for wildlife. By revitalizing the wetland, not only are critical habitats reinstated for amphibians, birds, and aquatic insects, but the overall biodiversity and ecological balance are also maintained.

Urbanization and Wildlife UW

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What does snail mucin do to skin?

--1 Garden snails, the species of snail most studied for skin care, produce slime advertised as moisturizing, full of antioxidants, and capable of stimulating new collagen, which can reduce signs of aging, according to Joshua Zeichner, a dermatologist at Mount Sinai Hospital.

--2 Consumers buy snail mucus products to repair damaged skin and lock in moisture, according to dermatologist Elizabeth Bahar Houshmand, an American Academy of Dermatology fellow. The mucus is full of natural vitamins A and E, antioxidants that can reduce inflammation and signs of aging, and there are peptides that boost collagen production, adds Houshmand. However, Houshmand says more, large clinical trials are needed to prove some of snail slime's purported effects, and to better understand its active ingredients.

--3 Snail mucus extract has been proven to create a protective barrier between the skin and air pollution. One study used a three-dimensional skin model and exposed it to ozone; the "skin" unprotected by the mucus extract became inflamed and showed signs of aging through oxidative stress, which causes wrinkles and uneven skin tone. The "skin" protected by the mucus extract showed less inflammation.

--4 Scientists are also exploring how snail secretions can be used beyond skin care. There's evidence snail mucus can help with wound healing and treat burns. Snail mucus also has antibacterial and antifungal properties.

--5 Another study tested its ability to stop bacteria in wounds, and some snail mucus performed better than commercial antibiotics, including amoxicillin and streptomycin. Early research suggests the mucus might have anticancer abilities too: garden snail mucus successfully inhibited skin cancer cell growth in a lab.

albana lala to Host and Panelists (8:45 PM)
ability to scan the title and the first sentence of each paragraph , writing down an anchor word for each paragraph in order to comprehend the article.
We understood that we should take 1 minute in the reading section to read the title and first sentences of each paragraph to connect better with the reading, so we can understand the structure better and have more answers correct.
Huda Ahmed to Host and Panelists (8:45 PM)
I learned how to limit my time to read fast and get the main nouns from each sentence as soon as I can which could help me to understand the article and get the answers correctly
Louisa Hope to Everyone (8:45 PM)
Toefl is timed exam. Make sure to do it on time, even if you understand less than 100 %. Don’t make stress or emotions win your strategy ability. Try to read first sentences in each paragraph and take notes- one or two most important words which best summarizes and explains the meaning of the paragraph.

Vocabulary Questions

Urbanization, (which is) the process of population migration from rural areas to cities, has a profound impact on wildlife and ecosystems. As cities expand, previously undeveloped land, including forests, wetlands, and grasslands, is transformed to accommodate the growing needs of the urban population. The expansion may occur through the construction of residential areas, commercial spaces, roads, and infrastructure. This transformation leads to the alteration or complete loss of the original natural environment, impacting ecosystems and 1234 wildlife that once thrived in those areas. The effects of urbanization on biodiversity can be complex, involving changes in habitat, food sources, and interactions between species.

1 Which of the following terms is defined in the passage?
A) Urbanization
B) Impact
C) Wetlands
D) Biodiveristy

Is… are… which is… which are…

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2 By using the word undeveloped, the author means that
A) the land was highly valued
B) the land was protected
C) the land was in its natural state
D) the land was underdeveloped

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3 The word 1234 in the passage is closest in meaning to

A) Helping

B) Unsettling

C) Replacing

D) Neutralizing

Detail Questions

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4 According to paragraph 1, why does urbanization require transforming undeveloped land?
A) To profoundly impact wildlife and ecosystems.
B) To ensure cities don't over expand.
C) To reduce the pressure on forests and wetlands.
D) To support an expanding urban population.

Urbanization, the process of population migration from rural areas to cities, has a profound impact on wildlife and ecosystems. As cities expand, previously undeveloped land, including forests, wetlands, and grasslands, is transformed to accommodate the growing needs of the urban population. The expansion may occur through the construction of residential areas, commercial spaces, roads, and infrastructure. This transformation leads to the alteration or complete loss of the original natural environment, impacting ecosystems and 1234 wildlife that once thrived in those areas. The effects of urbanization on biodiversity can be complex, involving changes in habitat, food sources, and interactions between species.

5 According to paragraph 1, what does urbanization lead to?
A) It has a profound impact on population migration.
B) An expansion of previously undeveloped land.
C) Profound changes in the natural environment.
D) A complete loss of ecosystems *in neighboring areas*.

Urbanization, the process of population migration from rural areas to cities, has a profound impact on wildlife and ecosystems. As cities expand, previously undeveloped land, including forests, wetlands, and grasslands, is transformed to accommodate the growing needs of the urban population. The expansion may occur through the construction of residential areas, commercial spaces, roads, and infrastructure. This transformation leads to the alteration or complete loss of the original natural environment, impacting ecosystems and 1234 wildlife that once thrived in those areas. The effects of urbanization on biodiversity can be complex, involving changes in
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6 According to paragraph 1, how is biodiversity affected by urbanization?
A) It can lead to alterations in species.
B) It can result in changes in food sources.
C) It can complicate habitat interactions.
D) It can transform the needs of a population.

Tom changed.
Tom's **hair** changed.
Tom changed the **way he talks**.

2 x 3 = 6
4**.2** x 3 = 12.6

Snail mucus extract has been proven to create a protective barrier between the skin and air pollution.

The dibilitated apple tree farm stand is nice.

Yesterday, during my time at home, the yellow-green apple computer diary broke into many pieces.

Urbanization, the process of population migration from rural areas to cities, has a profound impact on wildlife and ecosystems. As cities expand, previously undeveloped land, including forests, wetlands, and grasslands, is transformed to accommodate the growing needs of the urban population. The expansion may occur through the construction of residential areas, commercial spaces, roads, and infrastructure. This transformation leads to the alteration or complete loss of the original natural environment, impacting ecosystems and 1234 wildlife that once thrived in those areas. The effects of urbanization on biodiversity can be complex, involving changes in habitat, food sources, and interactions between species.

7 All of the following are mentioned as examples of undeveloped land EXCEPT
A) Rural areas
B) Forests
C) Grasslands
D) Wetlands

8 All of the following are mentioned as effects of urbanization EXCEPT
A) Construction on previously undeveloped land
B) Commercials spaces to support the growing needs of the urban population.
C) The complete loss of ecosystems and wildlife that once thrived in the area.
D) Complex changes in biodiversity.

9 Which of the following IS NOT STATED as a way previously undeveloped land is used to support the needs of a growing population?
A) The construction of residential areas
B) The building of commercial spaces
C) The replacing of outdated roads
D) The development of infrastructure

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10 What can be inferred about the expansion of cities?
A) Fewer resources are required than when cities are first built.
B) It gives rise to new kinds of wetlands.
C) It supports a cycle where cities must continue to expand.
D) The needs of the population within the city grow as well.

We completed our reading!