



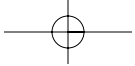
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Learn****Comprehension Test One for "Going, Going, Gone"**

Fill in the circle next to the best answer.

1. What is causing the sixth period of mass extinction?
  - (A) a meteorite
  - (B) humans
  - (C) introduction of non-native species
  - (D) climate changes, including global warming
2. Which of these statements is true of the mass extinction of species?
  - (A) It is a relatively new event in geological history.
  - (B) It always results from human causes.
  - (C) It is a process that can be reversed.
  - (D) Its causes can be multiple and unintentional.
3. What has been one effect of environmental poisoning?
  - (A) the near disappearance of the bald eagle
  - (B) the near disappearance of the bison
  - (C) the extinction of the dodo
  - (D) the endangered status of the jaguar
4. Which of the following is not a *feline*?
  - (A) panther
  - (B) tiger
  - (C) cat
  - (D) polar bear
5. When people build on wetlands,
  - (A) toxic chemicals are poured into the water.
  - (B) the animals are hunted.
  - (C) the habitat for the species living there is destroyed.
  - (D) new species are brought into the ecosystem.
6. By saving the alligator from extinction
  - (A) you may save many other species from extinction.
  - (B) it is no longer a keystone species.
  - (C) you will destroy a habitat.
  - (D) you will disrupt an ecosystem.
7. What do the Ordovician, Devonian, Permian, and Triassic periods have in common?
  - (A) widespread glaciation
  - (B) volcanic eruptions
  - (C) meteorite or asteroid impacts
  - (D) mass extinction
8. Which of the following is not a violation of the Endangered Species Act of 1973?
  - (A) trapping bald eagles
  - (B) destroying the nests of California Condors
  - (C) hunting bison
  - (D) collecting elephant tusks



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Learn**

## Comprehension Test Two for "Going, Going, Gone"

Write one or more sentences to answer the following two questions.

1. After reading the selection, do you think humans are doing enough to prevent further mass extinction? Explain.

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2. The author states that mass extinction has occurred during dramatic changes in the earth. Is this true of the sixth mass extinction? Can humans dramatically change the earth? Explain.

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Write a short essay to answer the following question.

3. If the human population continues to grow, how will plants and animals be affected?

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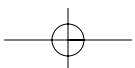
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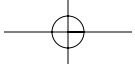
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**Practice****Comprehension Test One for "Valuing 'Varmints'"**

Fill in the circle next to the best answer.

1. What varmints are discussed in this article?
  - (A) passenger pigeons
  - (B) all endangered species
  - (C) prairie dogs and passenger pigeons
  - (D) people who harm endangered species
2. Which statement best summarizes the selection?
  - (A) The population of passenger pigeons is being restored.
  - (B) Passenger pigeons and prairie dogs are pests.
  - (C) Prairie dogs are not at risk of extinction.
  - (D) A species can rapidly become extinct.
3. What is the main reason for the decline of prairie dogs?
  - (A) extermination.
  - (B) their reputation for being harmful.
  - (C) their harming of farm animals.
  - (D) disappearance of habitat.
4. When a vast flock *dwindled*, they
  - (A) multiplied.
  - (B) grew steadily smaller.
  - (C) migrated south.
  - (D) nested in trees.
5. What caused the extinction of passenger pigeons?
  - (A) hunting
  - (B) prairie dogs
  - (C) loss of forests
  - (D) hunting and loss of forests
6. What made the disappearance of the passenger pigeon so startling?
  - (A) People valued them for their beauty.
  - (B) Huge numbers existed several centuries ago.
  - (C) There were recently huge numbers of them.
  - (D) Conservationists tried to protect them.
7. Why do you think the author chose to discuss the passenger pigeon and the prairie dog?
  - (A) To illustrate how humans can learn from one animal to save other animals.
  - (B) They show two different ways in which animals have become extinct.
  - (C) One nested in trees while the other burrowed in the ground.
  - (D) Both caused problems for farmers and ranchers.
8. The fact that prairie dogs have different calls to warn of specific predators suggests
  - (A) they are social animals.
  - (B) they live alone.
  - (C) they are intelligent animals.
  - (D) they are pests.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Practice**

### Comprehension Test Two for "Valuing 'Varmints'"

Write one or more sentences to answer the following two questions.

1. Is "Valuing 'Varmints'" a good title for this article? Support your answer with information from the article.

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2. Do you think the prairie dog should be listed on the endangered species list? Explain.

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Write a short essay to answer the following question.

3. Is the author's view of the prairie dog objective or biased? How might the article be different if written by a rancher?

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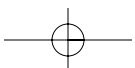
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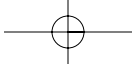
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**Apply****Comprehension Test One** for “DDT and the Peregrine Falcon”

Fill in the circle next to the best answer.

1. What does the term *peregrine falcon* refer to?
  - Ⓐ one type of falcon
  - Ⓑ falcons that have been exposed to DDT
  - Ⓒ all falcons
  - Ⓓ hawks, eagles, and falcons
2. Which statement best summarizes the attitudes toward the peregrine during World War II?
  - Ⓐ They were seen as a threat and killed.
  - Ⓑ They were trained to fight.
  - Ⓒ They were replaced by homing pigeons.
  - Ⓓ Some saw them as weapons; others saw them as a threat.
3. How much time passed between when DDT was shown to affect falcons and when it was banned?
  - Ⓐ two months
  - Ⓑ over 100 years
  - Ⓒ more than a decade
  - Ⓓ DDT is not banned.
4. Where would you be most likely to find an *aerie*?
  - Ⓐ at ground level
  - Ⓑ at high altitude
  - Ⓒ on crops sprayed with pesticides
  - Ⓓ near the nests of homing pigeons
5. What was the most serious threat to the peregrine falcon before the use of DDT?
  - Ⓐ the sport of falconry
  - Ⓑ their role in the Crusades
  - Ⓒ bird egg collectors
  - Ⓓ the feathered hat industry
6. What is most remarkable about the state of the peregrine population today?
  - Ⓐ It can survive by eating its own eggs.
  - Ⓑ The population has recovered from the brink of extinction.
  - Ⓒ It has been saved from DDT.
  - Ⓓ It can survive in large cities.
7. What kind of future does the peregrine falcon appear to have?
  - Ⓐ likely extinction
  - Ⓑ constant endangerment
  - Ⓒ untroubled
  - Ⓓ good unless some new threat appears
8. Which statement is most accurate?
  - Ⓐ The use of DDT had unforeseen consequences.
  - Ⓑ We will never know how DDT was transmitted to birds.
  - Ⓒ All the effects of DDT were well understood by those who used it.
  - Ⓓ When the effects of DDT were understood, everyone wanted it to be banned.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Apply**

### Comprehension Test Two for "DDT and the Peregrine Falcon"

Write one or more sentences to answer the following two questions.

1. Were you surprised to read that the inventor of DDT, Dr. Paul Müller, was awarded the Nobel Prize for medicine? Do you think he deserved the award?

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2. The peregrines ingested the DDT by eating small animals that ate insects that carried DDT. What does that tell you about DDT?

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Write a short essay to answer the following question.

3. Why did scientists continue to use DDT when they knew that it harmed "nontarget" species?

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