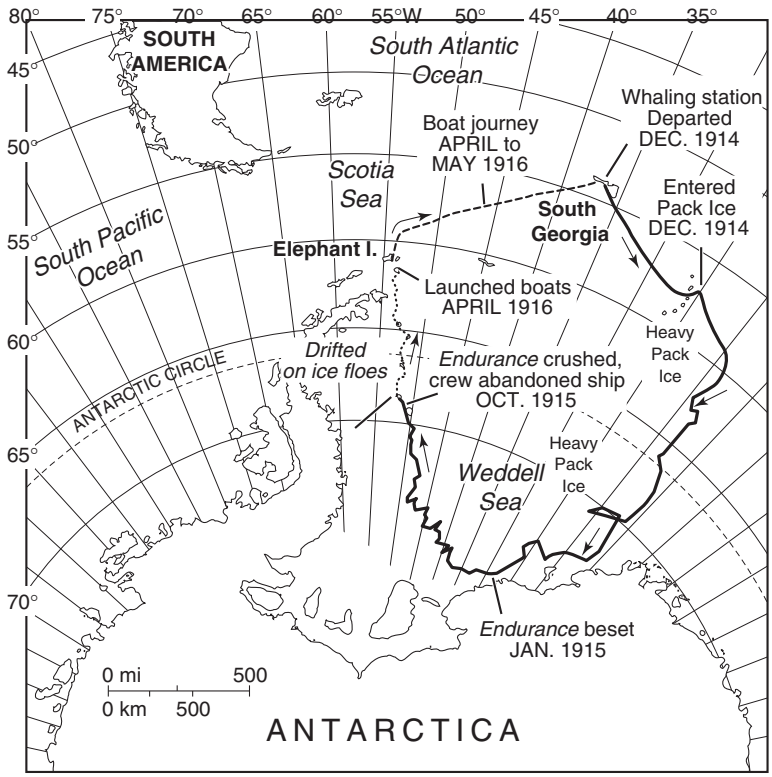
Read the passage "Shackleton's Epic Voyage" before answering Numbers 1 through 7.

Shackleton's Epic Voyage

Michael Brown

Marooned on desolate Elephant Island, the British explorer Shackleton and five other men make a grim voyage across the icy seas to reach a whaling settlement after their ship has foundered.



"Stand by to abandon ship!"

The command rang out over the Antarctic seas, and it meant the end of all Ernest Shackleton's plans. He was the leader of an expedition which had set out to cross the unknown continent of Antarctica. It was a journey no one before him had ever attempted.

For months his ship, the *Endurance*, had been trapped in ice. It drifted helplessly in the Weddell Sea, over 400 miles east of the Antarctic mainland and 1,200 miles south of the southernmost tip of South America. The pressure on the hull of the *Endurance* was extreme, and the ship's timbers groaned under the strain. Now Shackleton's first goal was to lead his men to safety. They would try to cross the polar sea on foot, head for the nearest tiny island, 250 miles to the west.

Slowly the men climbed overboard with the ship's stores. Shackleton, a gaunt bearded figure, gave the order "Hoist out the boats!" There were three, and they would be needed if the ice thawed.

Two days later, on October 30th, 1915, the *Endurance* broke up and sank beneath the ice. In the bitter cold, the chances of survival seemed small. But spurred on by Shackleton the 27 men set off, dragging their stores and the ship's boats on sledges across the uneven ice.

For five months the crew of the *Endurance* pushed their way slowly northwest across the frozen seas. Sometimes they dragged the sledges painfully behind them. Sometimes they drifted on large ice floes that slowly split into smaller and smaller pieces until they had to be abandoned. At times they took

to the boats and sailed or rowed through melting ice. At last, in April 1916, they reached Elephant Island—a tiny, barren, rocky outcrop 540 miles from the nearest inhabited land, Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands.

By now the situation was grim. Food and other supplies were low. Still worse, five months of constant cold and hardship had weakened all of the men. They were in poor condition to face the coming winter.

Seeing this, Shackleton knew that he and his crew could not last much longer. He decided on a desperate attempt to find help before winter set in. He turned to the men. "We will make our camp here. Six of us will take the *James Caird* and try to reach Stromness. It's our only chance." Stromness was a whaling base on the island of South Georgia, 800 miles N.E. of Elephant Island. To reach it they must cross some of the stormiest seas in the world.

The *James Caird* was the biggest of the ship's boats. Even so she looked pitifully small to face the great grey seas of the southern ocean. Shackleton had the keel[1] strengthened and added make-shift decking to give more shelter.

By April 24th all was ready, and the *James Caird* was launched from the beach. Some of the crew were soaked to the skin as they worked; this could be deadly in the bitter cold and wind so they changed clothes with those who were to stay behind. Shackleton shook hands with the men he was leaving, and then amidst cheers the *James Caird* set sail.

The little knot of men left behind was dwarfed by the high peaks of Elephant Island, and was soon lost from sight.

The *James Caird* was alone on the vast heaving seas. With one arm gripping the mast, Shackleton guided the boat through the ice floes that threatened to hole the sides. At last they were in clear water and, with a fair wind, set their course for South Georgia.

Now began a fierce ordeal for the crew of the *James Caird*. The boat was small and crowded. It was almost impossible for the men to find space among the stores and the rocks carried for ballast. All cooking must be done over a single primus stove that needed three men to handle it. One held a lamp, the other two lifted the cooking pot off whenever the violent pitching of the boat threatened to upset it. A fine spray of water constantly soaked its way through the flimsy decking.

There were storms and seas so big that in the trough of a wave the boat seemed surrounded by mountains of water. The waves towering above cut off the wind so that the sails flapped uselessly.

Four days passed. A gale sprang up that threatened to swamp the *James Caird* and hurl her crew into the icy seas. "Lower the sails," shouted Shackleton, above the roar of the wind. "We'll heave-to under bare poles and lie to the sea anchor." The sea anchor was a triangular canvas bag at the end of a long line which held the bows of the boat into the wind. If the seas hit them sideways on, they would capsize.

No man aboard had faced such waves before. Sometimes looking out abeam[2] they could see a great tunnel formed as the crest of a towering wave hung toppling over its base, then broke. Time after time it seemed they *must* be overwhelmed, but they survived.

[1] **keel:** a central structure in the bottom of a ship's frame

[2] **abeam:** across the width of a ship

The spray shot at them like burning arrows. It froze thick on the canvas decks and the bare masts, and would soon make the boat top-heavy. Shackleton saw the danger. "We must get the ice off, or we'll capsize," he warned.

Some of the men struggled on to the heaving deck and chipped ice away with axes to free the boat of the deadly weight. Others hurled things overboard—spare oars and sleeping bags—anything they could do without that would lighten the load.

At last on the morning of the seventh day, the wind dropped. The sea calmed, the skies cleared, and for the first time the sun shone. Thankfully, the men dragged out sleeping bags and sodden clothes and hung them in the rigging to dry. Cape pigeons flew overhead and porpoises played in the sea alongside. Shackleton and his men lay on deck soaking up the warmth. Hope surged in them; life was not so miserable after all.

Now answer Numbers 1 through 7. Base your answers on the passage "Shackleton's Epic Voyage."

1 What did Shackleton want to do that no one else had tried before?

A. travel by land over Antarctica
B. survive for five months in Antarctica
C. escape from a ship that was caught in ice
D. walk over 250 miles of frozen sea to reach land

2 Shackleton attempted a voyage across the dangerous seas to the whaling base because he

F. wanted to take advantage of the melting ice floes.
G. decided there was no time to salvage the *Endurance*.
H. feared his crew would not survive on Elephant Island.
I. hoped to get food and supplies to continue his expedition.

3 Why did six men sail on the *James Caird* while the others stayed behind?

A. There was not enough food for all the men.
B. Some of the men were too weak to travel farther.
C. There was not enough room in the boat for all the men.
D. Some of the men wanted to wait until after winter to leave.

4 Which of these supports the idea that the Antarctic seas were far more dangerous than anyone could have expected?

F. "No man aboard had faced such waves before."
G. "Now began a fierce ordeal for the crew of the *James Caird*."
H. "A fine spray of water constantly soaked its way through the flimsy decking."
I. "The waves towering above cut off the wind so that the sails flapped uselessly."

5 Read this sentence from the passage.

> **Others hurled things overboard—spare oars and sleeping bags—anything they could do without that would lighten the load.**

What is the meaning of the word *hurled* as it is used in this sentence?

A. gave
B. passed
C. sent
D. threw

6 Why did Shackleton order the crew to chip ice off the *James Caird*?

F. The ice damaged their clothing and supplies.
G. The ice made the deck slippery and dangerous.
H. The ice took up valuable supply space on the ship.
I. The ice added too much weight to the overburdened ship.

7 With which statement would the author of "Shackleton's Epic Voyage" most likely agree?

A. The men would not have survived without Shackleton.
B. The men should have arrived on Elephant Island more quickly.
C. The men should have prepared for the expedition more carefully.
D. The men would not have been trapped if they had set a proper course.

Read the poem "Copper Kettle Sweetheart" before answering Numbers 8 through 12.

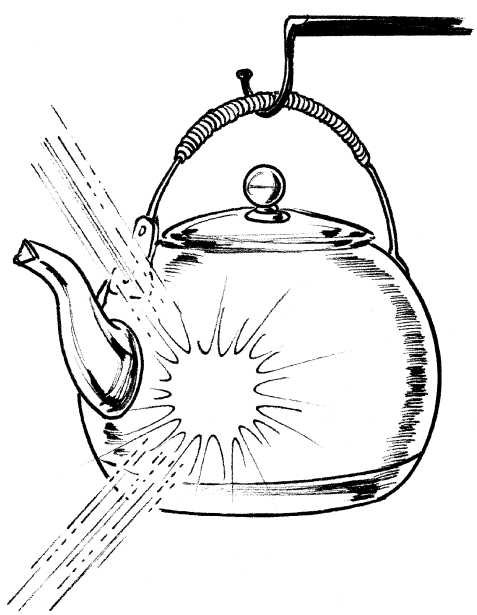
COPPER KETTLE SWEETHEART

by Madelyn Eastlund

Some folks on the ridge thought Papa called Ma
his copper kettle sweetheart 'cause her hair
had both color and sheen of the dented
old kettle that Papa kept high-polished
and hung from a fat hook in the kitchen
and they laughed that Papa likened her so.
When ladies met for quilting they would tease
Ma and ask didn't Ma mind that Papa
called her that name instead of pretty words?
But Ma always answered she was suited.

My sister and seven brothers and me
sat beside Pa in the evening, like steps
on the porch—and we listened to him play
a lively tune on mouth harp[1] or fiddle.
But mostly we liked when he told us tales
of when he was a boy. He'd point his pipe
up at the copper kettle. Ma would say
"Not again, Jeb," but she'd poke her needle
pleased-like into her quilt block. I could see
by fire's glow her face flushed a pretty pink.

[1] **mouth harp:** harmonica



He'd tell about the time he and his Pa
was sent into the cellar by his Ma
to bring up some potatoes for her stew.
"They were piled way back in a dark corner.
And darned if them spuds hadn't poked new roots
into the dirt floor. Sure a puzzlement!
Things don't grow in total dark. Then my Pa
noticed the kettle mama kept polished."
Our eyes went round oohs of surprise although
we knew the story well: how a slim beam
of afternoon sun came through the coal chute
"just about kissing the kettle," he'd say.
"That kettle just being there without plan—
that copper kettle so highly polished,
just couldn't help reflect the light that touched
right into that dark corner and the spuds
couldn't help be warmed and set down their roots."

He always ended, "We need a copper
kettle in our lives—don't never forget.
Your Ma, she's my shining copper kettle."

"Copper Kettle Sweetheart" by Madelyn Eastlund, first appeared in *The Lyric.* Vol. 80, No. 2.

Now answer Numbers 8 through 12. Base your answers on the poem "Copper Kettle Sweetheart."

8 Read these lines from the poem.

> **When ladies met for quilting they would tease**
> **Ma and ask didn't Ma mind that Papa**
> **called her that name instead of pretty words?**
> **But Ma always answered she was suited.**

Based on these lines and on the rest of the poem, what does the author mean by the phrase "she was suited"?

F. Ma was not interested in her nickname.
G. Ma thought her nickname was puzzling.
H. Ma found her nickname to be satisfactory.
I. Ma did not like being asked about her nickname.

9 Which phrase best describes the narrator's father?

A. considerate but stern
B. energetic and impatient
C. honest but unimaginative
D. affectionate and entertaining

10 Which personality trait does the narrator seem to have inherited from her father?

F. a natural talent for making music
G. a fondness for remembering the past
H. a habit of nicknaming family members
I. a tendency toward obvious exaggeration

11 Why does Ma avoid telling the quilting ladies the story behind her nickname? Support your answer with details and information from the poem.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

12 What method of organization does the author use to present the events of the poem?

A. The author uses order of importance to arrange the events in the poem.
B. The author uses questions and answers to relate the events in the poem.
C. The author uses chronological order to introduce events as they occurred.
D. The author uses flashback to weave past and present events into the poem.

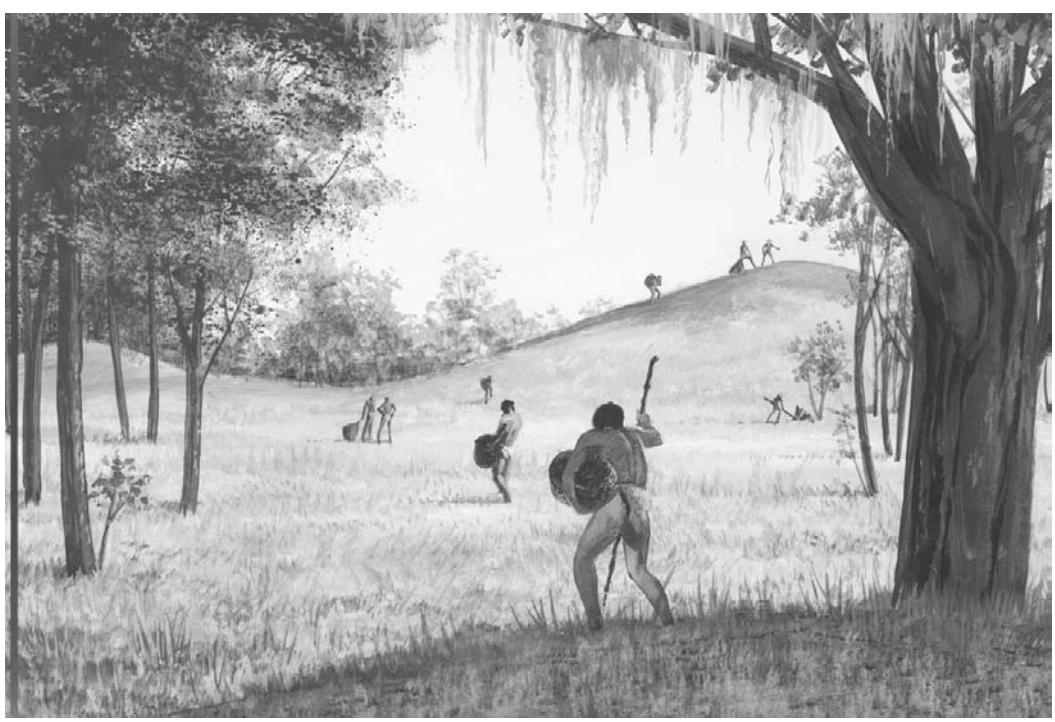
Read the article "The Earthmovers" before answering Numbers 13 through 17.

The Earthmovers

By Shanti Menon

BEFORE THE DAYS OF GIANT STEEL AND STONE monuments, people in North America made monuments of earth. They piled tons of it into oval, conical, and flat mounds for reasons that elude archeologists. Until now, the oldest mound complex was thought to be a 3,500-year-old site at Poverty Point, in northeast Louisiana. But a new study reveals that mounds at Watson Brake, just 55 miles away, are at least 1,900 years older than those at Poverty Point, making them the continent's oldest known large-scale earthworks, and early evidence for organized society in North America.

Reca Bamburg Jones, an amateur archaeologist, first recognized the importance of Watson Brake in 1981, after a timber company cleared the area. The largest mound, some 25 feet high, had been known to locals, including Jones. But after the clear-cutting, Jones noticed that it was connected by 3-foot-high ridges to ten other mounds that ranged in height from 3 to 15 feet, forming an oval enclosure 300 yards across. Jones and archeologist Joe Saunders of Northeast Louisiana University began an intensive study of the site in 1993. In September 1997, they published their findings.



The mound builders probably used skins to haul tons of gravel and soil.

The people of Watson Brake, Jones and Saunders discovered, came there each year to hunt and fish along the Arkansas River, which in those days ran within half a mile of the site. They ate mainly fish like drum, catfish, and sucker. Layers of seasonal secretions in the fishes' bones show that they were caught in the late spring to fall. Saunders also found remains of such animals as deer, turkey, squirrel, rabbit, turtle, and dog, as well as thousands of mussel and aquatic snail shells. "None of the snail shells were broken," Saunders notes. "We think they were steaming or boiling them." They were also eating wild plants, judging from the charred seeds of goosefoot, knotweed, and possibly marsh elder. These plants seed from summer to fall. Along with the evidence from the fish bones, this suggests that people visited the site only in the warmer months. Interestingly, these wild plants would later be among the first to be domesticated in eastern North America.

The Watson Brake people hadn't invented pottery yet, although they did fire clay to make strange cubes and spheres—for what purpose no one knows. These small clay objects and tiny drills used for making beads were unlike anything at nearby Poverty Point, leading Saunders to believe Watson Brake could be older. Several dating techniques[1] later showed that the Watson Brake mounds were built between 5,400 and 5,000 years ago. Nearly a thousand years before the pyramids were built and before the first pillars were erected at Stonehenge, Native Americans hauled around tons of gravel and soil, probably in skins and perhaps baskets, with a specific goal in mind. While the mounds on the northern half of the site follow the edge of a natural terrace, the southern mounds follow no natural feature. "The southern half is purposefully completing the enclosure, the oval shape," says Saunders. "That certainly shows planning." The two largest mounds show no signs of habitation, which suggests they were monuments of some kind.

Archeologists would expect a project on so large a scale to have been built by a settled people, with an elite group directing those of lower rank. Early Native Americans, who were probably nomadic hunter-gatherers, were not thought to have the social organization necessary for large-scale construction. Saunders thinks several small bands must have come together and cooperated over centuries to build and maintain Watson Brake. Other mounds in Louisiana, though not as firmly dated, seem to be from roughly the same period. "For now, I think we can say it's the earliest large-scale earthworks," says Saunders. "Will it be predated? I have no doubt. And I don't care. I think we're going to find many more surprises that will make us reevaluate what was going on in that period of history."

[1] **dating techniques:** methods of determining the age of sites and objects

"The Earthmovers" by Shanti Menon, *Discover* magazine. Artwork © Ron Miller 1999.

Now answer Numbers 13 through 17. Base your answers on the article "The Earthmovers."

13 Why does the author compare Watson Brake with other famous monuments around the world?

F. to emphasize the age of Watson Brake
G. to explain the purpose of Watson Brake
H. to detail the construction of Watson Brake
I. to describe the special features of Watson Brake

14 What made Saunders initially believe that the mounds at Watson Brake were older than the mounds at Poverty Point?

A. The mounds at Watson Brake were smaller than the mounds at Poverty Point.
B. The pattern of the mounds at Watson Brake was less defined than the pattern at Poverty Point.
C. Samples of fired clay from Watson Brake were less advanced than samples from Poverty Point.
D. Archaeologists discovered the Watson Brake site earlier than they discovered the Poverty Point site.

15 If this article were published in a newspaper, which would be the most informative headline?

F. "Oldest Known Earthworks Discovered in Louisiana"
G. "Research Uncovers Evidence of New Native American Groups"
H. "Jones and Saunders Publish Findings After Four Years of Research"
I. "Striking Similarities Found Between Watson Brake and Poverty Point"

16 Read this quotation by Joe Saunders.

> **"I think we're going to find many more surprises that will make us reevaluate what was going on in that period of history."**

Saunders means that

A. new evidence changes the "big picture" of archeological theory.

B. many archeological sites in North America still need to be explored.

C. new findings about Watson Brake must be published in archeological journals.

D. most archeological discoveries are the result of hard work and "lucky accidents."

17 Which fact from the article provides the best evidence that the discovery of Watson Brake was significant?

F. The people of Watson Brake visited the site primarily during the warmer months.

G. The people who built Watson Brake hauled tons of gravel and soil to recreate natural terraces.

H. The Watson Brake complex consists of eleven mounds connected by 3-foot-high earthen banks.

I. The Watson Brake mounds are at least 1900 years older than mounds previously found in the state.

Read the article "Do Nice Guys Finish Last?" before answering Numbers 18 through 24.

Do Nice Guys Finish Last?

by Nathan Aaseng

Fiery baseball manager Leo Durocher has been credited, or blamed, for one of sports' most notorious battle cries. "Nice guys finish last," Durocher snarled during his days at the helm[1] of the New York–San Francisco Giants.

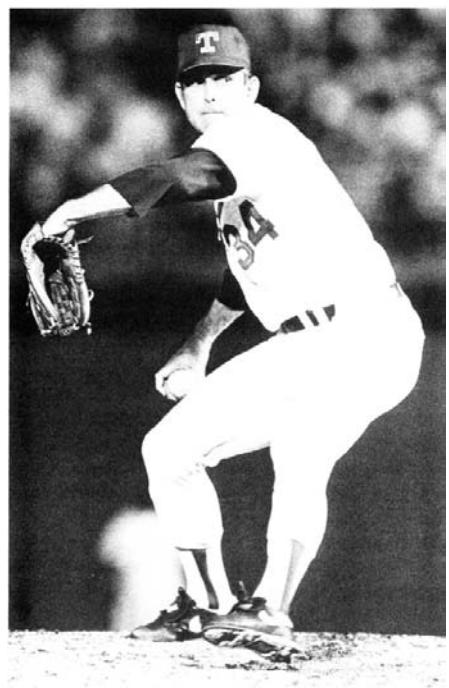
Durocher never would have made that statement had he enjoyed the privilege of managing one of the most overpowering pitchers in the history of baseball. Firsthand contact with Nolan Ryan would have changed his theory to something like "Nice guys throw harder," which would not have been as memorable.

As one neighbor said of Nolan Ryan, "You will wear out a truck finding someone who's nicer."

Even in the All-Star game, where competitiveness takes a backseat to politeness, Ryan has sent plate-crowding batters scrambling for cover. His catchers say they can see fire dancing in his eyes when he closes in on a no-hitter.

Yet Ryan's integrity and humility, more than his skill, have made him a hero even among baseball stars. Ten ball players who have played with Ryan in the majors have named children after him. According to Texas Rangers pitching coach Tom House, "Nolan is one of the few superstars who is everything he appears to be and more."

When Nolan was growing up in the small town of Alvin, Texas, he used to get up at 1 a.m. to roll newspapers. Then he would travel with his dad down the dusty backroads delivering papers until 4. After catching a couple of hours of sleep, he went off to school. Hardly a pleasant life for a schoolboy, but it taught Ryan a sense of responsibility. "You had the feeling people were counting on you. If you didn't get up, they weren't going to get their papers."



Nolan Ryan flashed some Texas heat.
(Courtesy of the Texas Rangers)

That sense of responsibility to others has traveled with him through his entire career. Ryan's incredible late-career success prompted a phone call from President George H.W. Bush inviting him to spend an

[1] **helm:** a position of control

evening at the White House. Ryan checked his schedule and found that on the day of the proposed White House visit, he was scheduled to speak free of charge to a group of cattlemen as part of a scholarship fund-raising effort. Ryan turned down the White House invitation. He had given his word to the cattlemen, and that's all there was to it.

Ryan first reached the major leagues in 1966, armed with a wicked fastball that he could not control. Watching Ryan pitch was like watching a hockey player whistle slap shots at a goalie. The catcher didn't know where the ball was going and was jumping all over to block the thing. Batters either struck out or walked. They so seldom hit a pitch that Ryan's fielders lapsed into a stupor[2] waiting for some action.

Ryan showed flashes of promise for the New York Mets. He pitched well in the Mets' World Series win in 1969. But it was not until he was traded to the California Angels that he began to take command of the mound. Detroit Tiger first baseman Norm Cash summed up the feeling of batters throughout the league. After striking out against Ryan, Cash met a teammate waiting in the on-deck circle. The teammate wanted to know how Ryan was throwing. Cash looked him in the eye and said, "Don't go up there!"

Nolan Ryan set a major league record by fanning[3] 383 batters in 1974, and won 20 games for the first time. Despite his frightening fastball and hard-breaking curve, Ryan frequently lost as many games as he won. Experts derided[4] Ryan, saying he was all flash and no substance, "no better than a .500 pitcher."

[2] **stupor:** lack of alertness, a daze

[3] **fanning:** striking out

[4] **derided:** made fun of, ridiculed

Ryan simply kept on doing his job, preparing for each game thoroughly, doing exercises to stay in shape. He shrugged off acclaim when he pitched no-hitters, giving credit to his fielders for their contributions.

Ryan was the first baseball player to sign a million-dollar-a-year contract. But the main reason he chose the Houston Astros' offer was not the money but the chance to be nearer his home and family. Ryan had always included his family whenever he could and avoided committing himself to anything in the off-season that would cause him to be away from them. Even during the season, "we never talk baseball, it's always his kids and how they're doing at school," according to one of Ryan's teammates.

Ryan was forty-one when he signed on with the Texas Rangers in 1988, well past the age when most power pitchers retire. He was expected to wind down his career and draw a few fans with his reputation. Ryan, though, was not about to disappoint the fans. "Anytime people take away from their normal routine, you don't want to disappoint them."

Ryan did not disappoint. In June 1990, Ryan came off a brief stint on the disabled list to pitch a no-hitter against the champion Oakland A's. That gave him six career no-hitters, two more than anyone else in history. Ryan celebrated by ordering a pizza with his family.

On May 1, 1991, Nolan Ryan was feeling the effects of his forty-four years of age. His back hurt, his head ached. "I feel old today," he said in the clubhouse before the game against the Toronto Blue Jays. But this was Fan Appreciation Night, and Ryan did not want to disappoint the 33,000 fans who had come to Arlington Stadium. He trudged out to the mound and went to work.

Once again Ryan turned back the clock. The middle-aged man fired the ball past strong young players half his age. Ryan fanned sixteen Blue Jays and walked only two. When All-Star Roberto Alomar came up to bat with two outs in the ninth inning, Toronto had yet to get a hit. With the count two balls and two strikes, Ryan launched another rocket to the plate. Alomar missed, and the stadium erupted in cheers.

Ryan's reaction to this seventh no-hitter was typically classy. No bragging, no victory dance, no fist raised in triumph. He smiled and thanked his catcher, Mike Stanley. After the game, Ryan put one more nail in the coffin[5] of the nice-guys-finish-last theory. "This was the one I wanted most because it was in front of the home fans. They have been so supportive."

[5] **put one more nail in the coffin:** contributed to the end

Now answer Numbers 18 through 24. Base your answers on the article "Do Nice Guys Finish Last?"

18 Why does the author begin the article with a quotation from Leo Durocher?

A. to explain why Ryan's baseball career lasted so long
B. to explain why Ryan left his first professional baseball team
C. to show how Ryan's best qualities disprove a famous slogan
D. to show which attitudes Ryan had to overcome to play successfully

19 Read this sentence from the article.

> **He shrugged off acclaim when he pitched no-hitters, giving credit to his fielders for their contributions.**

This sentence means that Nolan Ryan

F. shared the praise for successful games with his teammates.
G. thanked his teammates for making his individual talents stand out.
H. considered public attention embarrassing and told his teammates to ignore it.
I. suggested that cooperation among teammates could improve overall performance.

20 Which sentence from the article offers the best evidence that Nolan Ryan was a skillful pitcher?

A. "Ryan was the first baseball player to sign a million-dollar-a-year contract."
B. "That gave him six career no-hitters, two more than anyone else in history."
C. "He was expected to wind down his career and draw a few fans with his reputation."
D. "His catchers say they can see fire dancing in his eyes when he closes in on a no-hitter."

21 Describe how Nolan Ryan demonstrated his sense of responsibility. Use details and information from the article to support your answer.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

22 Read this sentence from the article.

> **As one neighbor said of Nolan Ryan, "You will wear out a truck finding someone who's nicer."**

Why does Ryan's neighbor make this statement?

F. to predict Ryan's long career in baseball
G. to emphasize Ryan's capacity for kindness
H. to prove Ryan's fans came from many places
I. to suggest Ryan's games were worth attending

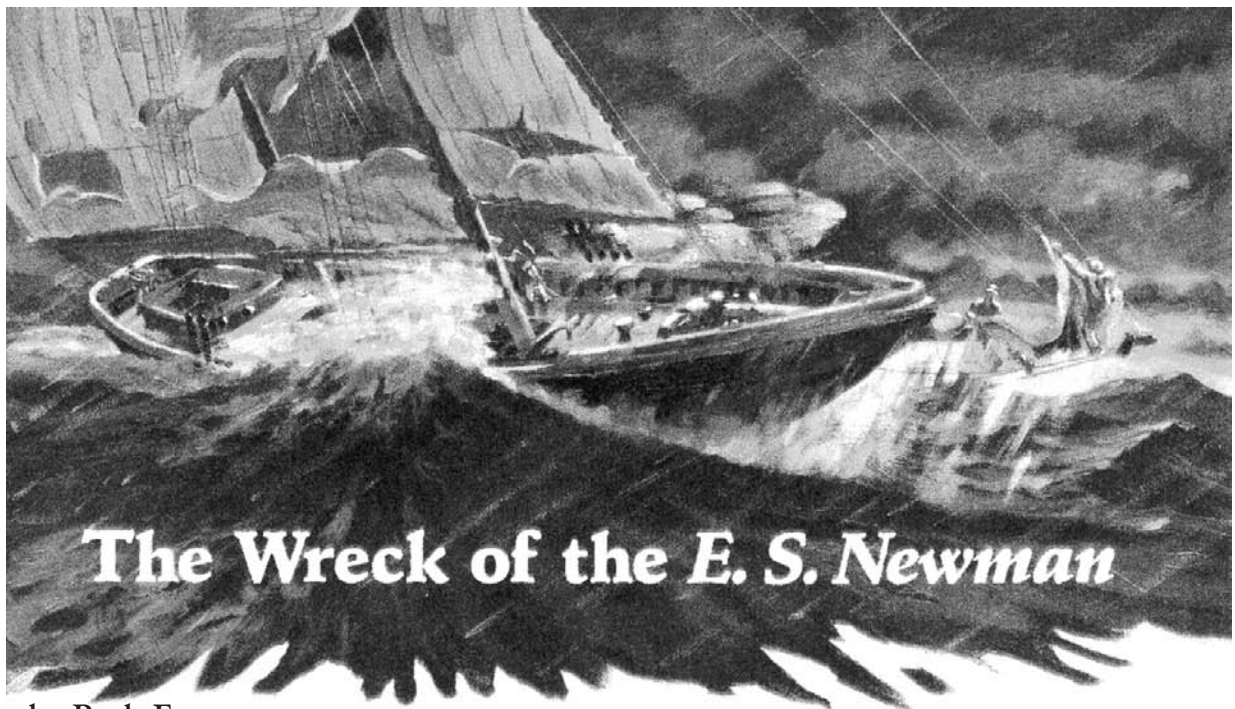
23 What aspect of Ryan's career does the author seem to admire the most?

A. his winning record in 1974
B. his competitive play during the 1960s
C. his commitment to excellence and duty
D. his ability to turn his talent into financial success

24 The author organizes the article by

F. comparing the struggles of Ryan's early years at home to the athletic triumphs of Ryan's adulthood.
G. listing the reasons that Ryan's achievements should be admired and then detailing Ryan's achievements as a pitcher.
H. starting with flashbacks to Ryan's childhood and then showing how early events shaped Ryan's character and career.
I. describing Ryan's personal qualities and then presenting key events in Ryan's career in which he demonstrated those qualities.

Read the article "The Wreck of the *E. S. Newman*" before answering Numbers 25 through 31.



by Ruth Ewers

VIOLENT WINDS swept the ocean, and waves thundered to shore, shaking the lookout tower at Pea Island Rescue Station. Surfman Theodore Meekins was on watch that evening of 11 October 1896. A hurricane had struck the Outer Banks of North Carolina, and the tide was so strong that beach patrols had been canceled. Still, Meekins paid close attention to the horizon. This was the type of weather that could blow ships hundreds of miles off course, into the shallow sands and shoals surrounding the Carolina coast.

Offshore, the schooner *E. S. Newman* was caught in the storm. The wind ripped the sails from the masts, and mountainous waves smashed onto the decks. The captain, whose wife and child were onboard, feared the *Newman* would soon break up. He made the decision to beach his ship, then fired a distress signal, praying that someone onshore would see it.

Meekins, whose eyes were trained to cut through rain and surf mists, thought he saw the signal, but so much spray covered the lookout windows that he could hardly make out the buildings of the station, much less the horizon offshore. Still, he took no chances. After summoning the station keeper, Captain Richard Etheridge, Meekins set off a coston signal.[1] Together, the two men searched the darkness for a reply. A few moments later, they saw a flash of light to the south and knew a ship was in distress. Even before the return signal burned out, Keeper Etheridge had summoned his men and begun rescue operations.

For the lifesavers, the rescue of the *Newman* was nothing unusual. Over the years,

[1] **coston signal:** a signal made by using lamps of different colors

so many ships had foundered off the Outer Banks that sailors called the region the Graveyard of the Atlantic. Noting the treacherous surf and wind conditions, Captain Etheridge quickly decided the surf boats would be impossible to maneuver. Instead, he instructed his men to load the beach cart with coils of line, powder, shot, and the lyle gun.

The crew set off on the long trek down the beach to the scene of the wreck. Captain Etheridge hoped to fire a line from the gun to the ship's mast. After the ship's crew dragged the line onboard, the surfmen would fire a second line. Secured to a spar of the ship, this second line would hold the breeches buoy, a harness for carrying survivors safely to shore.

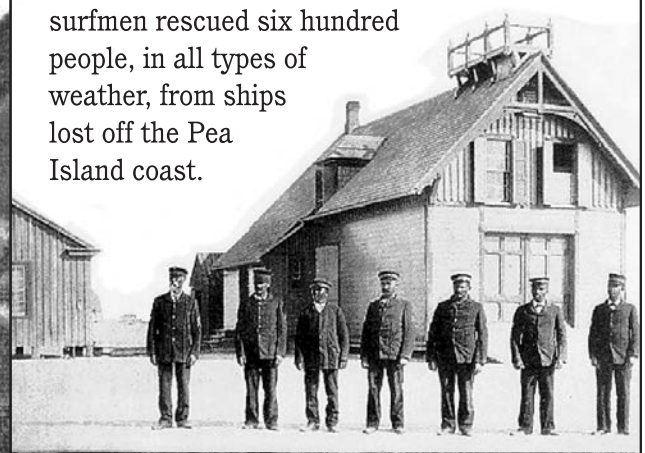
Struggling with the weight of the 185-pound gun, the surfmen crossed three miles of sand and boiling foam to reach the stranded ship. The water was freezing, and the men often sank up to their knees in sand. Captain Etheridge noted in his logbook that "the voice of gladdened hearts greeted the arrival of the station crew," but that "it seemed impossible under such circumstances to render any assistance. The team was often brought to a standstill by the sweeping current," and the *Newman* was "rolling and tossing well upon the beach with head sails all blown away."

Even when the rescue equipment proved useless, Etheridge refused to give up. Choosing two of his strongest surfmen, he tied rope lines around their waists and sent them into the surging water. The two men, lashed together and holding a line from shore, waded as far as they could before diving through the waves. Nearly worn out by the exertion of swimming against the tide, they finally made it to the vessel.

The first to be rescued were the captain's wife and child. With the two passengers tied to their backs, the surfmen fought their way back to shore. Taking turns, Etheridge and his crew made ten trips to the *Newman*, saving every person onboard. It was 1:00 a.m. when the crew and survivors finally made it back to the station.

That night, as the exhausted survivors lay sleeping and his lifesaving crew rested, Captain Etheridge picked up his pen, and in the flickering light of an oil lantern, wrote with satisfaction that all the people onboard had been saved and were "sheltered in this station"—words he would write for many years to come.

Richard Etheridge was the first African-American keeper in the United States Lifesaving Service, the forerunner to the Coast Guard. Before his appointment in 1880, most African-Americans worked for the service as hired hands. When Etheridge became station keeper, he resolved to have an African-American lifesaving crew and operate the tightest station in the service. Under his leadership, the crew achieved an esprit de corps that was the admiration and envy of the other stations. Etheridge insisted on weekly drills and demanded proper dress and swift obedience to orders. Unlike his predecessor, he also made sure a surfman was on duty in the tower during storms. This diligence paid off in many saved lives. From 1880 to 1915, Etheridge's surfmen rescued six hundred people, in all types of weather, from ships lost off the Pea Island coast.



"The Wreck of the *E.S. Newman*" by Ruth Ewers, text reprinted by permission of the *Cricket* Magazine, December 1995, Vol. 23, No. 4, text © 1995 by Ruth Ewers, art copyright © 1995 by Patrick O'Brien and reprinted by permission.

Now answer Numbers 25 through 31. Base your answers on the article "The Wreck of the *E. S. Newman*."

25 What was the author's main purpose in writing this article?

A. to alert sailors to the dangers of hurricanes
B. to create a story describing a rescue at sea
C. to inform people about Richard Etheridge
D. to record the details surrounding the wreck

26 Why was the lyle gun considered necessary for the rescue?

F. Use of the lyle gun was the best method for rescuing shipwrecked crews at night.
G. The crew of the *E. S. Newman* would be able to hear the sound of the lyle gun.
H. The current was too strong for surf boats, so a line shot from the lyle gun was required.
I. Surf boats were considered unreliable for rescuing crews, so use of the lyle gun was necessary.

27 What was the weather like on the Outer Banks of North Carolina the night of October 11, 1896, and why did it make a rescue difficult? Include details from the article to support your answer.

READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

28 Which title BEST fits the article?

A. "Lyle Gun Rescues Pea Island Station"
B. "Mission Impossible Rescue a Success"
C. "Mother and Child Rescued at Sea"
D. "Mother Nature Defies Rescue Attempts"

29 According to the boxed information at the end of the article, the Lifesaving Service was the "forerunner" to the Coast Guard. This means the Coast Guard was created

F. after the establishment of the Lifesaving Service.
G. while the Pea Island Rescue Station was being built.
H. before Captain Etheridge took over the Pea Island Rescue Station.
I. during Captain Etheridge's employment in the Lifesaving Service.

30 What change to the Lifesaving Service did Captain Etheridge make?

A. He used the lyle gun and surf boats in rescues.
B. He organized many rescues of ships lost at sea.
C. He canceled beach patrols when seas were rough.
D. He had a surfman keep watch in the tower during storms.

31 What is the main idea of "The Wreck of the *E. S. Newman*"?

F. It was many years before African-Americans could work for the United States Coast Guard.
G. All the passengers of a shipwreck were rescued because of heroic efforts of a special leader and his crew.
H. A terrible hurricane took place off the coast of North Carolina and threatened the lives of many sailors.
I. At no other time in American history have so many shipwrecked passengers survived such a violent storm.

Read the passage "Cry of the Kalahari" before answering Numbers 32 through 39.

An Excerpt from

Cry of the Kalahari

by Mark J. and Delia D. Owens

My left shoulder and hip ached from the hard ground. I rolled to my right side, squirming around on grass clumps and pebbles, but could not get comfortable. Huddled deep inside my sleeping bag against the chill of dawn, I tried to catch a few more minutes of sleep.

We had driven north along the valley the evening before, trying to home[1] on the roars of a lion pride. But by three o'clock in the morning they had stopped calling and presumably had made a kill. Without their voices to guide us, we hadn't been able to find them and had gone to sleep on the ground next to a hedge of bush in a small grassy clearing. Now, like two large armyworms, our nylon sleeping bags glistened with dew in the morning sun.

Aaoouu—a soft groan startled me. I slowly lifted my head and peered over my feet. My breath caught. It was a very big lioness—more than 300 pounds—but from ground level she looked even larger. She was moving toward us from about five yards away, her head swinging from side to side and the black tuft on her tail twitching deliberately. I clenched a tuft of grass, held on tight, and froze. The lioness came closer, her broad paws lifting and falling in perfect rhythm, jewels of moisture clinging to her coarse whiskers, her deep-amber eyes looking straight at me. I wanted to wake up Delia, but I was afraid to move.

When she reached the foot of our sleeping bags, the lioness turned slightly. "Delia! S-s-s-h-h-h—wake up! The lions are here!"

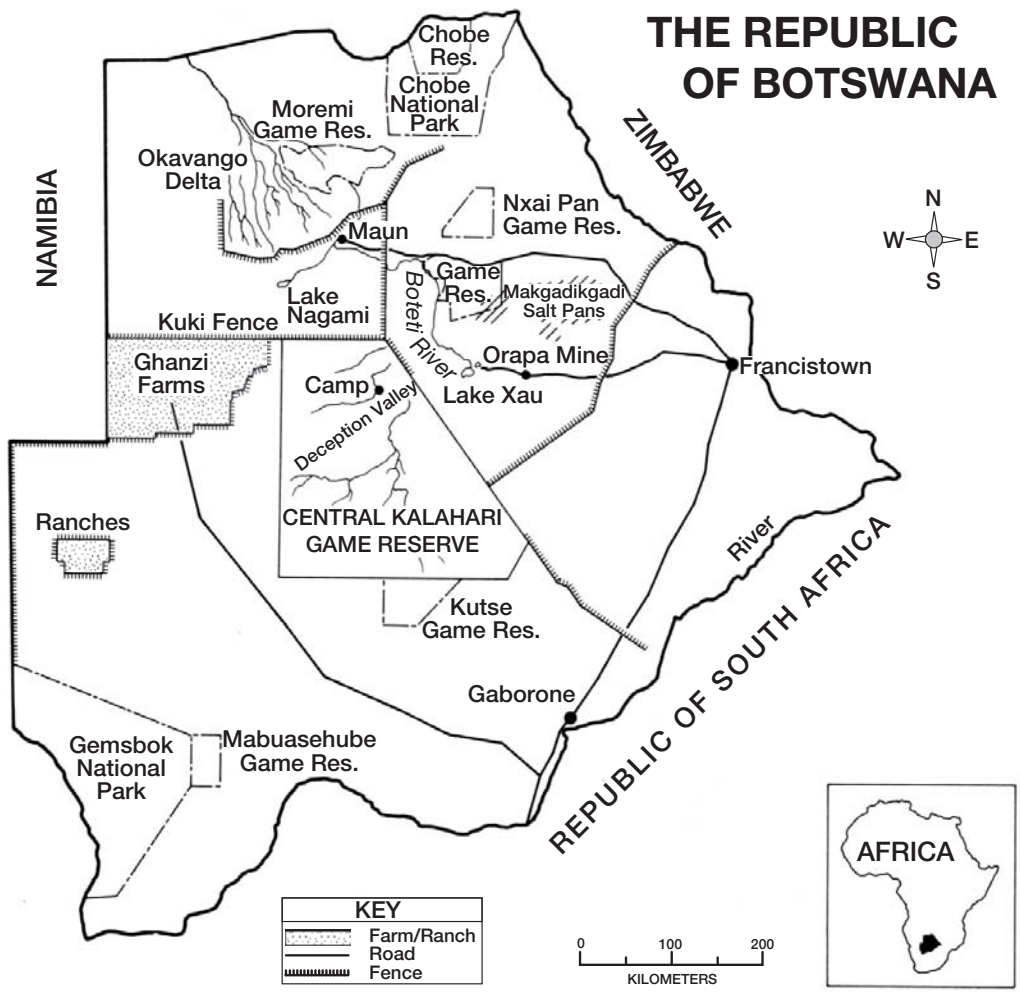
Delia's head came up slowly and her eyes grew wide. The long body of the cat, more than nine feet of her from nose to tuft, padded past our feet to a bush ten feet away. Then Delia gripped my arm and quietly pointed to our right. Turning my head just slightly, I saw another lioness four yards away, on the other side of the bush next to us . . . then another . . . and another. The entire Blue Pride, nine in all, surrounded us, nearly all of them asleep. We were quite literally in bed with a pride of wild Kalahari lions.

[1] **home:** move toward a target

Like an overgrown house cat, Blue was on her back, her eyes closed, hind legs sticking out from her furry white belly, her forepaws folded over her downy chest. Beyond her lay Bones, the big male with the shaggy black mane and the puckered scar over his knee—the token of a hurried surgery on a dark night months before. Together with Chary, Sassy, Gypsy, and the others, he must have joined us sometime before dawn.

We would have many more close encounters with Kalahari lions, some not quite so amicable.[2] But the Blue Pride's having accepted us so completely that they slept next to us was one of our most rewarding moments since beginning our research in Botswana's vast Central Kalahari Desert, in the heart of southern Africa. It had not come easily.

[2] **amicable:** pleasant



As young, idealistic students, we had gone to Africa entirely on our own to set up a wildlife research project. After months of searching for a pristine[3] area, we finally found our way into the "Great Thirst," an immense tract of wilderness so remote that we were the only people, other than a few bands of Stone Age Bushmen, in an area larger than Ireland. Because of the heat and the lack of water and materials for shelter, much of the Central Kalahari has remained unexplored and unsettled. From our camp there was no village around the corner or down the road. There was no road. We had to haul our water a hundred miles through the bushveld, and without a cabin, electricity, a radio, a television, a hospital, a grocery store, or any sign of other humans and their artifacts for months at a time, we were totally cut off from the outside world.

Most of the animals we found there had never seen humans before. They had never been shot at, chased by trucks, trapped, or snared. Because of this, we had the rare opportunity to know many of them in a way few people have ever known wild animals. On a rainy-season morning we would often wake up with 3000 antelope grazing around our tent. Lions, leopards, and brown hyenas visited our camp at night, woke us up by tugging the tent guy ropes, occasionally surprised us in the bath boma, and drank our dishwater if we forgot to pour it out. Sometimes they sat in the moonlight with us, and they even smelled our faces.

There were risks—we took them daily—and there were near disasters that we were fortunate to survive. We were confronted by terrorists, stranded without water, battered by storms, and burned by droughts. We fought veld fires miles across that swept through our camp—and we met an old man of the desert who helped us survive.

We had no way of knowing, from our beginnings of a third hand Land Rover, a campfire, and a valley called "Deception," that we would learn new and exciting details about the natural history of Kalahari lions and brown hyenas: How they survive droughts with no drinking water and very little to eat, whether they migrate to avoid these hardships, and how members of these respective species cooperate to raise their young. We would document one of the largest antelope migrations on earth and discover that fences are choking the life from the Kalahari.

The Owenses spent seven years in the Kalahari and conducted an important research project that revealed startling information about a wildlife population that had never been studied before. Thanks to their activities, more is now being done to preserve the wildlife in that area of Africa.

[3] **pristine:** pure, untouched by civilization

Now answer Numbers 32 through 39. Base your answers on the passage "Cry of the Kalahari."

32 Why do Mark and Delia Owens write about their stay in Botswana?

A. to encourage tourism in their favorite wildlife region
B. to fulfill course requirements at the college they attended
C. to entertain readers with fictional stories of their African adventure
D. to document life in the Kalahari and suggest that people preserve it

33 What is the tone of the third paragraph of the passage when Mark Owens awakens to see the lioness?

F. annoyed
G. relaxed
H. restless
I. suspenseful

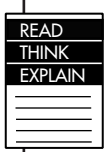
34 What is significant about the pride of lions coming to sleep next to the researchers, Mark and Delia Owens?

A. It indicates that the lions are unthreatened by the researchers.
B. It confirms that the lions rely on the researchers for medical care.
C. It shows that the lions mistake the researchers for part of the landscape.
D. It emphasizes that the lions find the researchers more interesting than hunting.

35 The lioness named Blue is compared to a housecat because she is

F. calm and relaxed.
G. alert and guarded.
H. furry and delicate.
I. secretive and solitary.

36 Describe how the animals of the Kalahari react to the researchers. Use details and information from the passage to support your answer.



37 According to the passage, fences have affected the Kalahari wildlife most by

A. restricting the ability of animals to move freely.
B. providing a way to protect and secure animals.
C. limiting the illegal hunting and capture of animals.
D. helping animals avoid dangerous conflicts with each other.

38 Why do the authors mention Ireland in their discussion of the "Great Thirst"?

F. to describe the size of the Kalahari
G. to note the location of another reserve
H. to show an example of a similar terrain
I. to compare its climate to that of the Kalahari

39 Why do Mark and Delia Owens conclude that their encounter with the Blue Pride is "one of our most rewarding moments since beginning our research"?

A. It is a narrow escape from dangers of the desert.
B. It marks the time when they stopped feeling isolated.
C. They are more interested in lions than in other animals.
D. The experience is a rare connection in a land they treasure.

Read the article "A Fighting Chance for Ferrets" before answering Numbers 40 through 45.

On the edge of extinction—can ferrets make a comeback?

A curious black-footed ferret pops its head out of a prairie dog burrow. Black-footed ferrets—members of the weasel family—are so rare that they were once thought to be extinct. Luckily a few survivors were found in Wyoming. Read on to find out how scientists are helping ferrets cope in the wild again.

Black-footed ferrets cannot live without prairie dogs. These ferrets live, hunt, and raise their young only in large prairie dog towns—vast networks of tunnels on prairies in parts of the western United States.

For a hundred years, ranchers have shot and poisoned prairie dogs, believing that they compete with their cows and sheep for grass. Ranchers are also concerned that prairie dog burrows cause cattle and horses to trip and break their legs.

Most large prairie dog towns were wiped out. Ferrets disappeared, too. Scientists say that to support a ferret population a town must cover hundreds of acres.

By the 1970s black-footed ferrets were assumed to be extinct. But in 1981 a black-footed ferret was discovered on a remote ranch in Wyoming. Excited by the find, scientists from university, state, and federal wildlife organizations scoured the surrounding area. During the next four years, they found more than a hundred ferrets!

Disease swept through the colony, killing ferrets and prairie dogs alike. In a last-ditch effort to save black-footed ferrets, scientists managed to rescue 18 of them before the colony was completely wiped out.

Pampered and well fed in their new enclosures, the surviving ferrets bred. Within seven years there were 400 black-footed ferrets in a controlled environment. It was time to try reintroducing them to the wild.

There are many hurdles to overcome when trying to return human-raised animals to the wild. Used to being fed and protected, the animals must quickly learn to find their own food and avoid danger. Another problem is that humans and ferrets share the same land. Local ranchers were concerned about the restrictions that might be placed on grazing land. Protecting reintroduced black-footed ferrets from disturbances might restrict the ranchers' fencing and grazing areas. Wildlife agency officials worked with the ranchers to find acceptable compromises.

In 1991 the first black-footed ferrets were released into prairie dog towns in Wyoming. The next summer there were four new wild-born ferret litters on the prairie. But most of the reintroduced ferrets died. Looking for ways to help more ferrets survive after release, scientists started a preconditioning program. Inside dirt pens young ferrets learned to navigate through prairie dog tunnels in a real burrow and fight and kill live prey. Researchers hope the program will give black-footed ferrets a fighting chance.

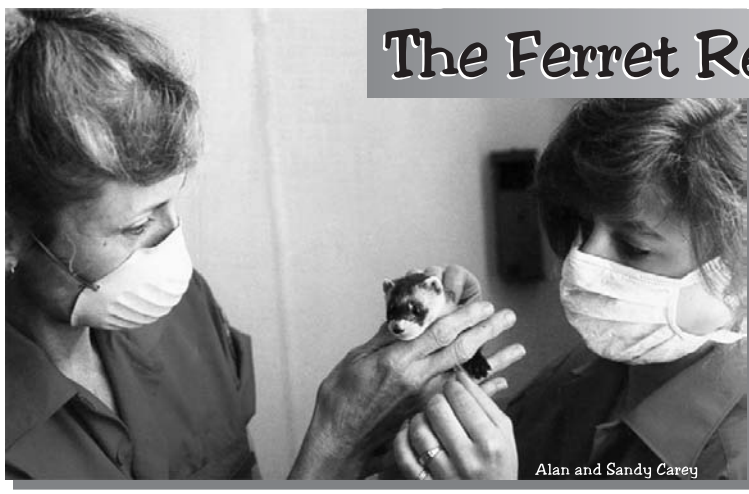
BY FIONA SUNQUIST

Hanging On

Today populations of reintroduced ferrets such as the one above survive in Wyoming, South Dakota, and Montana (see map, black dots). An Arizona release site is planned soon (black star).

Photo by Wendy Shattil/Bob Rozinski

The Ferret Rescue Project



Alan and Sandy Carey

Ferret Checkup

Wearing masks and coveralls, biologists Donna Zeiler, on the left, and Kyla Borghi examine a young black-footed ferret at the Sybille Wildlife Research Unit in Wyoming. To avoid carrying diseases into the breeding unit, researchers shower and change into clean clothes before entering.

Ready For Release

A black-footed ferret carries a miniature radio transmitter around its neck. The radio sends beeping signals that can only be heard with special electronic receiving equipment. By monitoring the signals, scientists can find out more about the lives of these secretive, nocturnal animals.

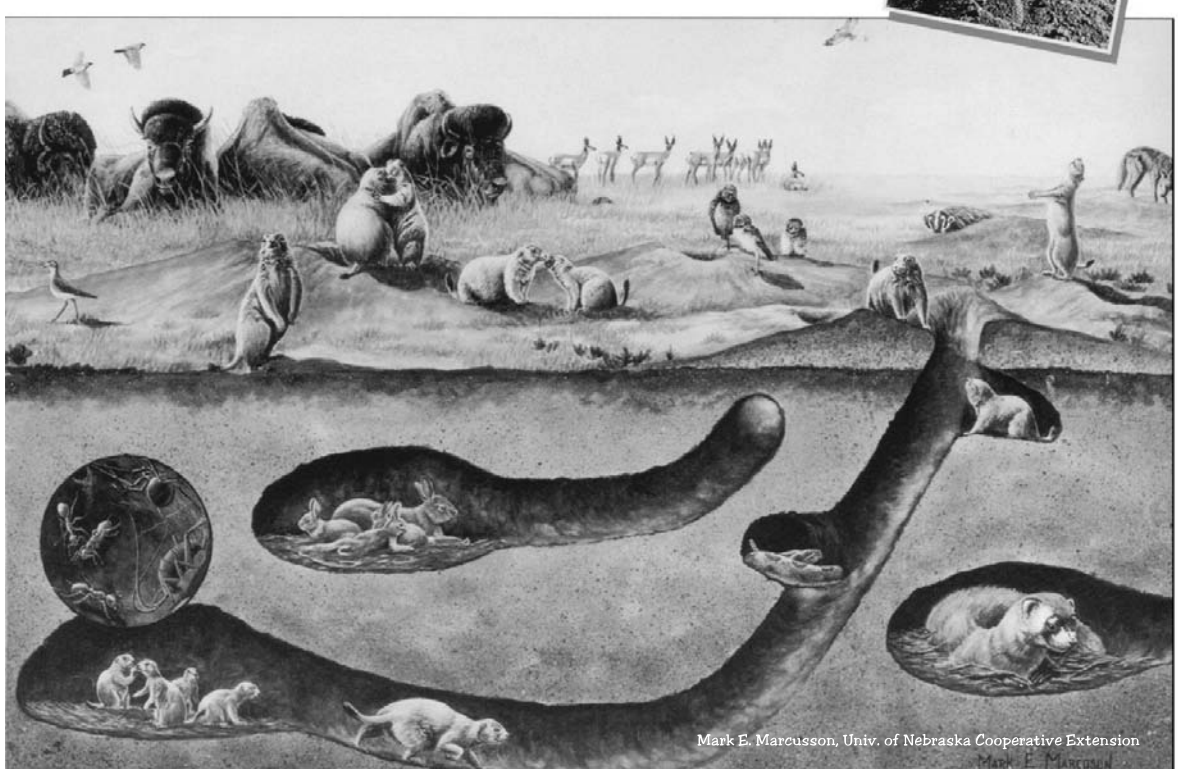
Luray Parker/Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Sharing the Prairie

An alert black-tailed prairie dog (right) scans for predators such as hawks and coyotes. Prairie dog towns are always guarded by several of these lookout dogs. If the sentry spies a predator, it gives a high-pitched bark to warn other members of the colony. The name *prairie dog* comes from this barking alarm call.

Many other animals depend on prairie dog colonies for food and shelter. (See diagram below.) Ferrets, rabbits, spiders, snakes, mice, and burrowing owls use prairie dogs' tunnels as shelter and a safe place to raise their young. Prairie dogs' constant grass nibbling stimulates new tender growth that attracts plant eaters like bison. New research confirms just how important prairie dogs are to the whole prairie ecosystem.

L.T. Rhodes/Animals Animals



Mark E. Marcusson, Univ. of Nebraska Cooperative Extension

"A Fighting Chance for Ferrets" by Fiona Sunquist, from *National Geographic WORLD* Magazine's September 1996 issue, text copyright © 1996 by the National Geographic Society.

Now answer Numbers 40 through 45. Base your answers on the article "A Fighting Chance for Ferrets."

40 Prairie dogs and ferrets are ALIKE in that they both

F. bark like dogs.
G. live in shared burrows.
H. have similar markings on their coats.
I. eat grass as the main part of their diet.

41 According to the map on page 35, ferrets

A. will soon outnumber prairie dogs.
B. are experiencing a natural comeback.
C. once lived in all parts of the United States.
D. once were common in the central United States.

42 How are radio transmitters helpful to scientists researching ferrets?

F. The radio signals tell scientists what ferrets are eating.
G. The radio signals inform scientists about new ferret litters.
H. By listening to signals from the transmitters, scientists can track ferrets' movements at any time.
I. By monitoring signals from the transmitters, scientists can tell what environmental dangers ferrets face.

43 Which statement about ferrets is LEAST accurate?

A. Ranchers often attempt to destroy ferrets and their habitats.
B. Hundreds of acres are necessary to support a ferret population.
C. Wild-born ferrets are vital to maintaining the prairie ecosystem.
D. Human-raised ferrets are able to adjust quickly to living in the wild.

44 Read this sentence.

> **An alert black-tailed prairie dog scans for predators such as hawks and coyotes.**

Predators are animals that

F. are desert dwellers.
G. hunt particular species.
H. are larger than their prey.
I. live near prairie dog towns.

45 What is the purpose of the large illustration on page 36?

A. to emphasize the size of prairie dog colonies
B. to explain how prairie dogs build their tunnels
C. to describe the ways prairie dogs guard their colonies
D. to show how other animals can use prairie dogs' tunnels