**Determining Author’s Purpose**

**PARK WILDLIFE**

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks support a wide diversity of animal species, reflecting the range in elevation, climate, and habitat variety there. Over 260 native vertebrate species are in the parks; numerous additional species may be present but have not been confirmed. Of the native vertebrates, five species are extirpated (or extinct), and over 150 are rare or uncommon. There have been some studies of invertebrates in the area, but there is not enough information to know how many species occur specifically in the parks. Many of the parks' caves contain invertebrates, some of which exist only in one cave and are known nowhere else in the world. In the foothills, where summers are hot and dry and winters are mild, plant life is largely chaparral on the lower slopes, with blue oak and California buckeye in the valleys and on higher slopes. A number of animals live in this area year-round; some breed here, while others winter here. Local species include the gray fox, bobcat, striped and spotted skunks, black bear, wood rat, pocket gopher, white-footed mouse, California quail, scrub jay, lesser goldfinch, wren, acorn woodpecker, gopher snake, California king snake, striped racer, western whiptail lizard, and the California newt.

1.) What was the author's purpose in writing this passage?

a. To entertain the reader.

b. To bore the reader.

c. To persuade the reader.

 d. To inform the reader.

e. To humor the reader.

2.) Citing evidence from the text, explain why you selected your choice for question # 1.

Explain in detail.

**SPORTS SAFETY**

The clock shows five seconds left in the game. Your team is losing by just one

point. You desperately want to take the ball and score a goal, but you are stuck cheering from the sidelines; you injured your leg on a previous play. According to doctors, many sports injuries can be prevented, and that is why it is important to understand sports safety. Even more importantly, you must take measures to reduce the likelihood that you will suffer a game-ending, or even career-ending injury.

***Be a Safe Sport!***

Each year, about 20 million kids play sports during and after school. Unfortunately, about 5 million of those kids suffer some kind of injury while

playing. Injuries range from mild sprains and muscles strains, to broken bones, dangerous concussions, and even life-threatening injuries.

To help children play sports safely, the National Youth Sports Safety Foundation (NYSSF) has named April “National Youth Sports Safety Month.” During April, the foundation plans to teach kids about sports safety. The foundation's message is that most sports injuries can be prevented.

***How to Be a Safe Sport***

While nothing, short of avoiding sports altogether, can guarantee that you will avoid any sort of sports-related injury, education is key to reducing the incidences of injury. Below is a list of preventative activities that, according to the NYSSF, will lessen the likelihood that you will suffer a sports-related injury:

· Do warm-up stretches before and after playing any sport. Stretching

 helps loosen tight muscles and tissues.

· Do not play when you are in pain. Pain is a sure sign of an injury!

· Use proper sports safety equipment, such as helmets, elbow pads,

 kneepads, safety glasses, wrist guards, shin guards, and mouth guards.

The NYSSF says that playing sports and exercising help kids stay healthy and

make friends. There is no reason to avoid sports, simply because of the possibility of injury. Take precautions to prevent injury, then listen to your coach and your body if you do feel pain. And remember: no matter which sport you play, your “goal” is to have fun!

3.) What was the author's purpose in writing this passage?

a. To entertain the reader.

b. To bore the reader.

c. To persuade the reader.

 d. To inform the reader.

e. To humor the reader.

4.)Citing evidence from the text, explain why you selected your choice for question # 1.

Explain in detail.

**VISUAL PERCEPTION**

It is tempting to think that your eyes are simply mirrors that reflect whatever is in front of them. Researchers, however, have shown that your brain is constantly working to create the impression of a continuous, uninterrupted world.

For instance, in the last 10 minutes, you have blinked your eyes around 200 times. You have probably not been aware of any of these interruptions in your visual world. Something you probably have not seen in a long time without the aid of a mirror is your nose. It is always right there, down in the bottom corner of your vision, but your brain filters it out so that you are not aware of your nose unless you purposefully look at it.

Nor are you aware of the artery that runs right down the middle of your retina. It creates a large blind spot in your visual field, but you never notice the hole it leaves. To see this blind spot, try the following: Cover your left eye with your hand. With your right eye, look at the O on the left. As you move your head closer to the O, the X will disappear as it enters the blind spot caused by your optical nerve.

O                                                                       X

Your brain works hard to make the world look continuous!

5.) What was the author's purpose in writing this passage?

a. To entertain the reader.

b. To bore the reader.

c. To persuade the reader.

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e. To humor the reader

6.) Citing evidence from the text, explain why you selected your choice for question #1.