

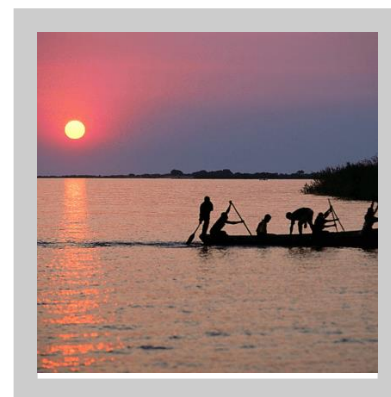
Name _____

Date _____

Protecting Lake Tanganyika

Hidden away in the mountains of western Tanzania is one of the largest lakes in the world: Lake Tanganyika.

Environmentalists want to protect the beauty and biological diversity of this area from the harmful effects of overfishing and deforestation. However, in order to do this, they need the cooperation of people in the nearby village of Mahale. In this impoverished community, malaria and typhoid are rampant, there is little access to doctors, and 13% of children die before age 5. How can we expect people who cannot save their own children to care about saving the environment?



While it is true that the Mahale villagers are suffering, environmentalists argue that Lake Tanganyika is in an equally critical condition. This lake is home to hundreds of fish species found nowhere else on the globe. Eighty mammal species live in the surrounding forests and mountains. Ninety percent of Tanzania's endangered chimpanzees reside in this area. Irreparable damage to this ecosystem will result in untold losses.

Furthermore, environmentalists see the destruction of the environment as a direct function of the villagers' poverty: as the fish population decreases, people are forced to clear more land to grow rice and corn. As they clear more land, the soil run-off from deforestation further reduces the fish population, making it even more difficult for people to survive on fishing alone. This vicious cycle harms both the Mahale villagers and the environment.

To meet their objective of protecting Lake Tanganyika, environmentalists are now using a multifaceted approach in Mahale: helping the villagers gain access to healthcare, educating fishermen and farmers about the impact of deforestation and their own role in the dwindling fish population, and protecting areas of the lake where fish spawn. Since natural resources can be the tool by which the people of Tanzania work themselves out of poverty, it is essential that these resources are managed well. By integrating health services with conservation activity, we can begin to heal the suffering in western Tanzania, for people and the land alike.

- 1) In paragraph 1, the author asks, "How can we expect people who cannot save their own children to care about saving the environment?" This question suggests that worrying about the environment is a(n)
- A. luxury
 - B. outrage
 - C. mistake
 - D. misunderstanding

- 2) As used in paragraph 1, which is the best antonym for **rampant**?
- A. safe
 - B. calm
 - C. motionless
 - D. limited
- 3) According to the passage, what percentage of Tanzania's endangered chimpanzees live in the forests surrounding Lake Tanganyika?
- A. 5
 - B. 13
 - C. 80
 - D. 90
- 4) The author concludes that in western Tanzania, the problems of poverty and environmental destruction are
- A. identical
 - B. unsolvable
 - C. connected
 - D. opposed
- 5) Based on its use in the final paragraph, it can be understood that **multifaceted** belongs to which of the following word groups?
- A. novel, original, innovative
 - B. rare, peculiar, uncommon
 - C. varied, assorted, diverse
 - D. adaptable, versatile, pliant
- 6) Based on information in the passage, it can be understood that environmentalists most likely decided to help the villagers gain access to healthcare because
- A. learning that so many children were dying made environmentalists realize that saving lives is more important than saving the lake
 - B. helping to address the villagers' most pressing problem could encourage the villagers to help preserve the environment
 - C. saving the villagers' lives would directly result in less overfishing of the lake and less destruction of the surrounding forests
 - D. offering healthcare could be a way for the environmentalists to live in the community and provide a valuable service

7) The information presented in this passage can best be described as

- A. a problem and a solution
- B. a question with two answers
- C. an analysis of underlying causes
- D. an explanation of a relationship

8) Using your own words, explain the threats that Lake Tanganyika faces.

Answers and Explanations

1) A

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

In paragraph 1, the author asks, “How can we expect people who cannot save their own children to care about saving the environment?” In this question the author suggests that most people worry about saving their own children more than saving the environment. The author implies that people whose children are threatened by diseases will devote all of their time and resources to the health of their children, not to the health of the environment. This further suggests that those who are worried about the environment must not have to worry about saving their own children, because they have the time and resources to worry about saving the environment. Worrying about the environment is something people can afford to do if they do not have more pressing concerns, such as saving their children. This means that this question suggests that worrying about the environment is a luxury.

Therefore **(A)** is correct.

Although the author suggests that people who cannot save their own children will be less concerned about saving the environment, he or she does not imply that worrying about the environment is an outrage or in any way offensive. This means **(B)** is incorrect.

Although the author suggests that people who cannot save their own children will be less concerned about saving the environment, he or she does not imply that worrying about the environment is a mistake. The author only suggests it is something that people whose children are sick or dying likely cannot afford to do. This makes **(C)** incorrect.

The author does not suggest that worrying about the environment is a misunderstanding on the part of the environmentalists. This means **(D)** is incorrect.

2) D

Core Standard: **Craft and Structure**

Rampant (*adjective*): flourishing or spreading unchecked.

In paragraph 1, the author writes, “In this impoverished community, malaria and typhoid are rampant, there is little access to doctors, and 13 % of children die before age 5.” Since the author lists the community’s problems with poor healthcare in this sentence, we can understand that malaria and typhoid are problems in the community. Because these diseases are problems in the community and the author says they “are rampant,” the diseases must be present and spreading. This tells us that *rampant* likely means growing or spreading, so a good antonym would be *limited*. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

Since the author suggests that malaria and typhoid are problems in the community, the word rampant likely describes the scale of these diseases in this specific place. It would not make sense for the author to say that malaria and typhoid are dangerous in this community, since this implies they are not dangerous other places. This means *safe* is not an antonym for rampant. This eliminates **(A)**.

Although the diseases of malaria and typhoid are spreading, we do not describe diseases as wild, so *calm* is not an antonym for rampant. This makes **(B)** incorrect.

The author discusses the scale of malaria and typhoid in this community, not their movement, so *Motionless* is not an antonym for rampant. This means **(C)** is incorrect.

3) D

Core Standard: **Key Ideas and Details**

To answer this detail question correctly, we need to find where the author discusses the endangered animals in the area surrounding Lake Tanganyika in the passage. A good way to do this is to scan the topic sentence of each paragraph, since this sentence will likely tell us what information can be found in the rest of that paragraph. The topic sentence of paragraph 2 reads: “While it is true that the Mahale villagers are suffering, environmentalists argue that Lake Tanganyika is in an equally critical condition.” This lets us know that the details we are looking for can likely be found in paragraph 2.

In paragraph 2, the author writes, “Ninety percent of Tanzania’s endangered chimpanzees reside in this area.” This tells us that 90% of Tanzania’s endangered chimpanzees live in the forests surrounding Lake Tanganyika. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

4) C

Core Standard: **Key Ideas and Details**

In paragraph 1, the author identifies two problems: “the harmful effects of overfishing and deforestation” on Lake Tanganyika and the suffering of people in the nearby “impoverished community” of Mahale. He or she asks, “How can we expect people who cannot save their own children to care about saving the environment?” This introduction suggests that the problems of poverty and environmental destruction are distinct. However, in paragraph 3, the author writes that “environmentalists see the destruction of the environment as a direct function of the villagers’ poverty: as the fish population decreases, people are forced to clear more land to grow rice and corn. As they clear more land, the soil run-off from deforestation further reduces the fish population, making it even more difficult for people to survive on fishing alone.” He or she also calls this pattern a “vicious cycle.” From this we can understand that the author concludes that in western Tanzania, the problems of poverty and environmental destruction are connected. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

Although the author suggests that these two problems are connected, he or she does not claim that they are the same problem. This means that the author does not conclude these problems are identical. This eliminates **(A)**.

While these problems may represent a “vicious cycle,” the author does not suggest they are unsolvable. In fact, in the final paragraph, he or she describes a possible solution of “integrating health services with conservation activity.” This makes **(B)** incorrect.

In paragraph 1, the author asks, “How can we expect people who cannot save their own children to care about saving the environment?” This question suggests that these two problems are distinct and maybe even opposed to one another. However, by the end of the passage, the author concludes that “the destruction of the environment” is “a direct function of the villagers’ poverty,” meaning that the two problems are not actually opposed, but connected. This means **(D)** is incorrect.

5) C

Core Standard: **Craft and Structure**

Multifaceted (*adjective*): having many aspects or phases; varied.

In the final paragraph, the author writes, “To meet their objective, environmentalists are now using a multifaceted approach in Mahale: helping the villagers gain access to healthcare, educating fishermen and farmers about the impact of deforestation and their own role in the dwindling fish population, and protecting areas of the lake where fish spawn.” From the details provided about the environmentalists’ approach, we can understand that it involves several different aspects, from healthcare to education to conservation. This means the approach is not singular, but varied. This tells us that *multifaceted* belongs to the word group *varied, assorted, diverse*. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

The author does not suggest that the environmentalists’ approach is necessarily new. This means that multifaceted does not belong to the word group *novel, original, innovative*. This eliminates **(A)**.

The author does not provide information about whether this approach is common. This means that multifaceted does not belong to the word group *rare, peculiar, uncommon*. This means **(B)** is incorrect.

Although the author suggests this approach has many different aspects, we do not know whether it is adaptable. This means that multifaceted does not belong to the word group *adaptable, versatile, pliant*. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

6) B

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

In paragraph 1, the author writes, “In this impoverished community, malaria and typhoid are rampant, there is little access to doctors, and 13 % of children die before age 5. How can we expect people who cannot save their own children to care about saving the environment?” This suggests that healthcare is a more pressing need for the villagers than protecting the environment, so it would be difficult for the villagers to focus on protecting the environment while worried about their own wellbeing and that of their families. In the final paragraph, the author states that environmentalists decided to use a “multifaceted approach...helping the villagers gain access to healthcare, educating fishermen and farmers about the impact of deforestation and their own role in the dwindling fish population, and protecting areas of the lake where fish spawn.” Then the author writes, “By

integrating health services with conservation activity, we can begin to heal the suffering in western Tanzania, for people and the land alike.” This tells us that an approach that addresses multiple concerns of the villagers would help to solve the larger problem, so it makes sense for the environmentalists to help the villagers gain access to healthcare as one part of that approach. If the villagers were less worried about their health, they might be more receptive to helping preserve the environment. This means that the environmentalists most likely decided to help the villagers gain access to healthcare because helping to address the villagers’ most pressing problem could encourage the villagers to help preserve the environment. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

In paragraph 1, the author tells us that in Mahale, “13% of children die before age 5.” However, in paragraph 2, the author writes, “While it is true that the Mahale villagers are suffering, environmentalists argue that Lake Tanganyika is in an equally critical condition.” This means that environmentalists most likely think that saving lives and saving the lake are both important. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect.

Based on information in the passage, we cannot conclude that saving the villagers’ lives would directly result in less overfishing of the lake and less destruction of the surrounding forests. In fact, having a larger population to feed could result in more overfishing of the lake and more destruction of the forests. This means **(C)** is incorrect.

The passage does not provide information to support the idea that environmentalists plan to live in the community. This eliminates **(D)**.

7) A

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

In paragraph 1, the author writes, “Environmentalists want to protect the beauty and biological diversity of this area from the harmful effects of overfishing and deforestation. To do this, though, they need the cooperation of people in the nearby village of Mahale. In this impoverished community, malaria and typhoid are rampant, there is little access to doctors, and 13 % of children die before age 5.” In these sentences, the author identifies two problems, environmental destruction and poverty. In paragraph 3, the author notes that these two problems are related, and may actually be two parts of one problem, since “environmentalists see the destruction of the environment as a direct function of the villagers’ poverty.” In the final paragraph, the author describes the environmentalists’ “multifaceted approach” of “integrating health services with conservation activity” as a potential solution for the larger problem of “the suffering in western Tanzania.” The first three paragraphs identify aspects of a problem, and the final paragraph describes a potential solution. This means the information presented in this passage can best be described as a problem and a solution. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

The author asks a question in paragraph 1 (“How can we expect people who cannot save their own children to care about saving the environment?”). However, he or she does not provide two answers to this question. This means **(B)** is incorrect.

In paragraph 3, the author analyzes the underlying causes of the environmental destruction. He or she writes that “as the fish population decreases, people are forced to clear more land to grow rice and corn. As they clear more land, the soil run-off from deforestation further reduces the fish Population, making it even more difficult for people to survive on fishing alone.” However, the rest of the passage focuses more broadly on the problem of environmental destruction as related to poverty, and a potential solution to this problem. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

Although the author does explain the relationship between poverty and environmental destruction in paragraph 3 (“environmentalists see the destruction of the environment as a direct function of the villagers’ poverty”), the rest of the passage focuses more broadly on this problem and its potential solution. This makes **(D)** incorrect.