

PRACTICE TEST 56

Passage 1

British Columbia is the third largest Canadian province both in area and population. It is nearly three times as large as Texas, and extends 800 miles (1,280 km) north from the United States border. It includes Canada's entire west coast and the islands just off the coast.

Most of British Columbia is mountainous, with long, rugged ranges running north and south. Even the coastal islands are the remains of a mountain range that existed thousands of years ago. During the last Ice Age this range was scoured by glaciers until most of it was beneath the sea. Its peaks now show as islands scattered along the coast.

The southwestern coastal region has a humid mild marine climate. Sea winds that blow inland from the west are warmed by a current of warm water that flows through the Pacific Ocean. As a result winter temperatures average above freezing and summers are mild. These warm western winds also carry moisture from the ocean. Inland from the coast, the winds from the Pacific meet the mountain barriers of the coastal ranges and the Rocky Mountains. As they rise to cross the mountains, the winds are cooled, and their moisture begins to fall as rain. On some of the western slopes almost 201 inches (500 cm) of rain fall each year.

More than half of British Columbia is heavily forested. On mountain slopes that receive plentiful rainfall, huge Douglas firs rise in towering columns. These forest giants often grow to be as much as 300 feet (90 m) tall, with diameters up to 10 feet (3 m). More lumber is produced from these trees than from any other kind of tree in North America. Hemlock, red cedar, and balsam fir are among the other trees found in British Columbia.

1. In which part of British Columbia can a mild tree found in British Columbia?
(A) In the southwest (B) Inland from the coast
(C) In the north (D) On the entire west coast
2. In line 16, the word "heavily" could best be replaced by which of the following?
(A) weightily (B) densely (C) sluggishly (D) seriously
3. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a climate be found?
(A) Hemlock (B) Cedar (C) Fir (D) Pine
4. Where in the passage does the author mention the effect the mountains have on winds?
(A) Lines 4 – 5 (B) Lines 8 – 10
(C) Lines 13– 14 (D) Lines 16 – 17

Passage 2

Though they were not trained naturalists, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark in their explorations of North America in the early nineteenth century came across enough unfamiliar birds, mammals, and reptiles to fill a zoo. In keeping with President Jefferson's orders they took careful note of 122 species and subspecies that were unknown to science and in many cases native only to the West. Clark made sketches of any particularly intriguing creature. He and Lewis also collected animal hides and horns and bird skins with such care that a few of them were still intact nearly two centuries later. While Lewis and Clark failed to meet the mythological monsters reputed to dwell in the West, they did unearth the bones of a 45 - foot dinosaur. Furthermore, some of the living beasts they did come upon, such as the woolly mountain goat and the grizzly bear, were every bit as odd or as fearsome as any myth. In their collector's enthusiasm, they even floated a prairie dog out of its burrow by pouring in five barrellfuls of water, then shipped the frisky animal to Jefferson alive and yelping.

1. What does the passage mainly discuss?
(A) President Jefferson's pets
(B) Collector's techniques for capturing wildlife
(C) Discovery of animal species by Lewis and Clark
(D) Jobs for trained naturalists
2. "In keeping with" in line 3 could best be replaced by which of the following?
(A) Following (B) Managing (C) Retaining (D) Delaying
3. It can be inferred from the passage that President Jefferson ordered Lewis and Clark to
(A) bring back animals for a zoo (B) train to be naturalists
(C) compile sketches for a book (D) record newly discovered species of animals
4. In line 8, what does the word "they" refer to?
(A) Lewis and Clark (B) Dinosaur bones
(C) Mythological monsters (D) Western dwellers
5. The author compares which of the following animals to mythological monsters?
(A) The grizzly bear (B) The prairie dog (C) A tropical bird (D) A poisonous reptile
6. According to the passage, Lewis and Clark poured water into a prairie dog's burrow because they wanted to
(A) bathe the animal (B) capture the animal
(C) give the animal water (D) teach the animal to float