

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Test-Taking Skills Booster**Unit 6****READING COMPLETION**

Read the selection. Choose the word or phrase that best completes each statement.

Saving the American Buffalo

One remarkable conservation story is the sustained effort to save the American buffalo, (1) was successfully brought back from near extinction. (2) the arrival of European settlers in North America, there were more than 50 million buffalo roaming in huge herds across the continent's central flatlands, which are today known as the Great Plains. For Native Americans living on the plains, these magnificent creatures (3) food as well as clothing and shelter. The buffalo played an enormously important (4) in the plains ecosystem, sustaining other animals and plants on the plains. For example, weaker buffalo provided food for predators such as bears and wolves. Buffalo attracted birds that picked at their fur for insects. And thousands of hooves walking over the landscape kept aggressive plants (5) control.

(6) , as new settlers moved from the East to settle the West, whole herds were slaughtered, often just for sport. Buffalo were considered an obstacle to the settlers' desire to grow crops and raise cattle. (7) , the resource that had sustained Native Americans for centuries began to disappear. By the end of the 1800s, there were as few as 750 buffalo remaining. Many people were shocked that the buffalo, long considered a symbol of the West, had been allowed to come so close to extinction. Fortunately, (8) efforts to save them were begun in 1905. The remaining herds were gathered together and protected. As a result, steady (9) was made, increasing their numbers to today's population of about 350,000. What conclusion can we draw from this story? It illustrates that conservation efforts can make a difference if they are begun early enough.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. A which | B even though | C now that | D so that |
| 2. A While | B Because | C Before | D In fact |
| 3. A provided | B took | C made | D sold |
| 4. A species | B character | C role | D place |
| 5. A as | B over | C out of | D under |
| 6. A To sum up | B Secondly | C In summary | D Unfortunately |

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7. **A** In contrast **B** Consequently **C** Similarly **D** Still
8. **A** environment **B** ecology **C** habitat **D** conservation
9. **A** progress **B** reduction **C** conservation **D** distance

LISTENING COMPLETION

You will hear part of a lecture. Read the paragraph below. Then listen and complete each statement with the word or short phrase you hear in the lecture. Listen a second time to check your work.

The lecturer says that most species can be placed into one of two
(1) : predator or prey. However, she points out that many animals
play (2) in nature, as predator and prey. She further explains that
animals that are prey rely on (3) in order to protect themselves from
predators. As an example, she points out that fish swim in huge (4) in
which they move as if the group were one (5) This behavior
(6) predators, causing them to only eat the fish that are outside the
group. The lecturer further points out that predators also often travel in groups
called (7) in order to make it easier to hunt their prey and ensure
their own (8) She notes that (9) in a group makes it
possible to kill (10) animals.