

第四次直播内容

长阅读精讲

Passage1

The recent recognition of a link between increasing rates of deforestation and increasing global climatic warming has focused new attention on the ecological role of forests. Deforestation threatens the continued existence of forests, and their loss would lead to an immediate, irreversible destabilization of the climate because the destruction of forests contributes to increased atmospheric concentrations of such heat-trapping gases as carbon dioxide and therefore to the acceleration of global warming.

The world is at present accumulating carbon dioxide in the atmosphere from two well-known sources the combustion of fossil fuels and deforestation. Deforestation results in higher levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere because the carbon stored in plants and trees is released when trees decay or are burned. A third sources, the warming-enhanced decay of organic matter in forests and soils, especially in the middle and higher latitudes, is now being recognized as potentially significant. Evidence is accumulating that carbon from this source is beginning to have global effects. Thus, two of the three sources of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are directly related to the survival and health of forests.

In the discussion about the importance of forests, however, emphasis has fallen on biodiversity, or numbers of species per unit area, especially in the tropics, where such diversity is particularly high. But forests, it should be emphasized, have a similar role in every latitude. They contain the largest numbers of different kinds of plants and animals of any community on land and might be considered the most highly developed of the terrestrial communities from the standpoint of complexity of structure and diversity of life and life forms. Forests are far more than simple collections of species. However, it is unfortunate that the discussion of biotic or living resources has been focused on biodiversity rather than on the actual ability of the land itself to support life. In order for the complete range of plant and animal life to thrive, the soil must contain essential nutrients in their proper quantities and proportions, and the atmosphere must be composed of the correct molecules in their proper proportions. If the soils were to become infertile and the atmosphere inhospitable, more than mere diversity or numbers of species would be lost, the land would become impoverished and no longer be able to support any life.

Deforestation almost invariably speeds up the loss of nutrients into watercourses. It also, as previously explained, involves a release of carbon into the atmosphere. Forests thus play a clear and critical role in helping to protect the capacity of the land to support life by increasing the retention of nutrients and in helping to stabilize the atmosphere by storing carbon.

1. The passage is **primarily concerned with** discussing the
 - A. Importance of forests for protection the land and atmosphere
 - B. Role of forests in the tropics versus that in the higher latitudes.
 - C. Process of deforestation in the tropics
 - D. Need for forests to ensure the preservation of biodiversity
 - E. Negative effects of recent global climatic changes in forests.

2. According to the passage, the emphasis on preserving biodiversity in forests has had which of the following effects?

- A. Diverted attention from the importance of the land's ability to support life.
- B. Led to recognition of the causes of complexity of terrestrial communities.
- C. Led to an understanding of the causes of accelerated rates of global warming.
- D. Resulted in the formulation of the concept of biotic resources.
- E. Shifted attention away from the role of forests in stopping the accumulation of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

3. The passage **suggests** that the emphasis on a forests biodiversity has had which of the following unfortunate consequences?

- A. It has fostered the view that forests have a similar role in every climate.
- B. It has fostered the view that deforestation almost invariably speeds erosion
- C. It has fostered resistance to preserving any forests but tropical ones.
- D. It has led to an increase in the rate at which the land is becoming impoverished
- E. It has led to an underestimation of the importance of some forests

4. The primary **purpose** of the third paragraph of the passage is to

- A. Explain how the land supports life
- B. Explain what happens when soil becomes infertile
- C. Explain why a certain development in the discussion of forests is regrettable
- D. Show that forests are far more than simple collections of species
- E. Argue that forests with a small number of species are more important to the support of life than forests with many species

Passage2

The main exception to primate researchers' general pattern has been the study of male care among monogamous primates. It has been known for over 200 years, ever since a zoologist-illustrator named George Edwards decided to watch the behavior of pet marmosets in a London garden, that among certain species of New World monkeys males contributed direct care for infants that equaled or exceeded that given by females. Mothers among marmosets and tamarins typically give birth to twins, as often as twice a year, and to court the female in her staggering reproductive burden the male carries the infant at all times except when the mother is actually suckling it. It was assumed by Kleiman that monogamy and male confidence of paternity were essential to the evolution of such care, and at the same time, it was assumed by Symons and others that monogamy among primates must be fairly rare.

Recent findings, however, make it necessary to reverse this picture. First of all, monogamy among primates turns out to be rather more frequent than previously believed (either obligate or facultative monogamy can be documented for some 17-20 percent of extant primates). And second, male care turns out to be far more extensive than previously thought and not necessarily confined to monogamous species, according to Hardy. Whereas previously, it was assumed that monogamy and male certainty of paternity facilitated the evolution of male care, it now seems appropriate to consider the alternative possibility that the extraordinary capacity of male primates to look out for the fates of infants did in some way pre-adapt members of this order for the sort of close, long-term relationships between males and females that, under some ecological circumstances, leads to monogamy. Either scenario could be true. The point is that on the basis of present knowledge there is no reason to view male care as a restricted or specialized phenomenon. In sum, though it remains true that mothers among virtually all primates devote more time and/ or energy to rearing infants than do males, males nonetheless play a more varied and critical role in infant survival than is generally realized.

1. The author the passage mentions the work of Hardy primarily to

- A. present an instance of untenable assumption
- B. illustrate a consensus by citing a representative claim
- C. provide evidence that challenges a belief
- D. highlight a corollary of a widespread view
- E. offer data that help resolve a debate

2. According to the passage, the evolutionary relationship between male care and monogamy is

- A. incontestable
- B. immutable
- C. uncommon
- D. immaterial
- E. uncertain

3. The author of the passage **suggests** that it is “appropriate to consider the alternative possibility” because the previous view

- A. results in a contradiction
- B. depends on problematic data
- C. appears less definite given certain facts
- D. conflates two distinct phenomena
- E. overlooks a causal relationship between correlated phenomena

4. Which of the following statement, **if true**, would provide the greatest **support** to “the alternative possibility”?

- A. The number of primate species in which male care of infants is exhibited is greater than the number of primate species that practice monogamy.
- B. Male care of infants among primates can be seen earlier in the evolutionary record than can monogamy among primates.
- C. Monogamous relationships among primates can be found in species living in a variety of physical environments.
- D. Most primate species that practice monogamy do not show any evidence of male care of infants.
- E. Male care of infants can be observed in some primate species that lack male confidence of paternity.