According to the reading material, the author presents the three hypotheses to explain the decline of yellow cedar, However, the professor in the listening argues that none of the reasons is convincing.

The first reason mentioned by the author is that insect parasites specifically the cedar bark beetle lead to yellow cedar decline. The professor in the listening, however, argues that this kind of insect won't cause the decline because healthy yellow cedar trees can resist them than others. For example, there are chemical substances on the central of their leaves [which are poison](that poison) the insects. Therefore, healthy yellow cedar won't suffer and this kind of beetle will only kill those already ill.

The second reason mentioned by the author is that brown bears claw at the cedars and weaken them. The professor in the listening, however, argues that bears will only hurt some trees but the decline happened on both the mainland and islands. Although there are no bears on those islands, yellow cedars on the islands still decline.

The final reason mentioned by the author is that the change in the timing of root growth from early spring into late winter has significant consequences that growing roots suffer damage from partial freezing. The professor in the listening, however, argues that it's not the cause since many trees living in low altitudes died. If it's the reason, there will be more death in the high altitude while actually more trees die in low altitudes.

高低海拔 High/Low altitudes