12. The key deer was hunted to near extinction, but the creature was protected by compassionate and hardworking conservationists. 1 One of the rarest and most prized animals in the United States is the key deer. This tiny creature was once hunted without mercy. It was not uncommon for a single hunter to kill more than a dozen key deer in one day. Often, hunters set grass fires to drive the creatures out of hiding; other times, they were attacked with harpoons while they were swimming. In the 1950s, conservationists—led by the 5 Boone and Crockett Club—saved the key deer from extinction. Today, the surviving key deer are protected by the United States government in the Key Deer National Wildlife Refuge, created in 1957. Question Which of the following is implied in the passage? (A) Species become at risk of dying out when they are hunted too extensively. (B) The government is still the most effective way to safeguard the environment because it has the resources to establish effective programs. (C) Endangered species will only be saved if they become a priority. (D) Government officials and private citizens must work together to help the environment. (E) The key deer is valuable for its beautiful coat.