WEEK TWO
Negative Factual Information

Introduction

Negative Factual Information questions ask you to find wrong information that is not mentioned in the passage. You should decide which of the answer choices is not discussed in the passage or does not agree with one or more statements in the passage. Like Factual Information questions, scanning is the key skill for this question type. However, you need to scan more of the passage to make sure that your answer is correct.

Question Types

1. According to the passage, which of the following is NOT true of ----------?

2. All of the following are mentioned in paragraph X as ---------- EXCEPT:

3. The author's description of ---------- mentions all of the following EXCEPT:

4. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage?

Useful Tips

- Make use of the key words in the question and answer choices to spot relevant information in the passage.
- Don't forget that the necessary information may be spread out over an entire paragraph or several paragraphs.
- Make sure that your answer is NOT mentioned in the passage or contradicts the passage.

Practice Drills

Scanning is the key skill to deal with Negative Factual Information questions. But unlike Factual Information questions, you should scan more of the passage because relevant information may be spread out over more than one part of the passage. You need to decide which of the answer choices is not true or not mentioned in the passage.

Caterpillars

A caterpillar is the larval form of a butterfly or a moth. It has a long, segmented body. The body is soft. This allows it to grow quickly as it consumes much food, like a balloon. Caterpillars are eating machines as they prepare to enter the pupa stage. Like all insects, caterpillars do not breathe through their mouths. They pull in air through tubes along the sides of their body. Their eyesight is very poor, so they use antennae to locate food. Caterpillars have various defenses to protect them from birds and other animals. Their bodies are capable of adapting camouflage. Some caterpillars look like snakes or leaves. Some caterpillars eat poison leaves and become toxic.

1. According to the passage, which of the following is NOT true of the caterpillar?

A
B
C
D

(A) It locates food with feelers and eats a lot.

(B) It protects itself from enemies in various ways.

(C) It is the larval form of all insects.

(D) It breathes through the sides of its body.

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The Refrigerator

One invention that changed the daily lives of humans is the refrigerator. In the time before its invention, people had to spend a lot of time gathering fresh food every day. The only way to keep food cold was to have a large block of ice delivered to the home. This was costly and very inconvenient. The first home refrigerators came onto the market in 1911. At that time, a refrigerator cost almost twice as much as a new car. The early models took up a lot of space in the home. Sometimes two rooms were needed. By 1927 General Electric introduced the Monitor-Top refrigerator. This was the first model to be widely used and is still functional today.

2. The author's description of the refrigerator mentions all of the following EXCEPT:

A
B
C
D

(A) the effect of refrigerators as an invention

(B) the convenience of using ice to keep food fresh

(C) the size of early refrigerators

(D) the popularization of refrigerators

Kinds of Wind

Wind is the movement of air over the Earth's surface. It is caused by uneven heating of the atmosphere. The two major influences on wind are the heating between the equator and the poles and the Earth's rotation. One way to classify different kinds of wind is by the forces that cause it. Prevailing winds, such as the trade winds, the westerlies, and the jet streams, are caused by global circulation. Synoptic winds are caused by warm and cold fronts clashing. Mesoscale winds are produced by thunderstorms. Microscale winds are very short bursts that happen suddenly. Winds are some of the most common yet powerful forces shaping our lives and our planet every day.

3. According to the passage, which of the following is NOT true about wind?

A
B
C
D

(A) The clash of cold fronts causes synoptic winds.

(B) Very short, sudden bursts of wind are called microscale.

(C) The trade winds are caused by global rotation.

(D) Thunderstorms produce mesoscale winds.

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Hummingbirds

Hummingbirds are known for their ability to hover in mid-air by rapidly flapping their wings. A hummingbird flaps 15 to 80 times per second. This action enables them to maintain position while drinking from flower blossoms. They get their name from the humming sound made by their wings. The Bee hummingbird is the smallest bird in the world, weighing 1.8 grams. The Rufous hummingbird is more typical, weighing 3 grams. The Giant hummingbird weighs as much as 24 grams. Hummingbirds have the highest metabolism of any animal beside insects. Their hearts can beat as many as 1,260 beats per minute. In order to sustain this, they must consume more than their own body weight in food each day.

4. According to the passage, which of the following is NOT true about hummingbirds?

A
B
C
D

(A) Their name comes from the humming noise their wings make.

(B) Their wings can beat from 15 to 80 times every second.

(C) The Rufous hummingbird is about twice as heavy as the Bee hummingbird.

(D) They have a higher metabolism than insects do.

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CHECK YOURSELF

Meteorite Impact and Dinosaur Extinction

Paragraph 1: Paleontologists have argued for a long time that the demise of the dinosaurs was caused by climatic alterations associated with slow changes in the positions of continents and seas resulting from plate tectonics. Off and on throughout the Cretaceous (the last period of the Mesozoic era, during which dinosaurs flourished), large shallow seas covered extensive areas of the continents. Data from diverse sources, including geochemical evidence preserved in seafloor sediments, indicate that the Late Cretaceous climate was milder than today's. The days were not too hot, nor the nights too cold. The summers were not too warm, nor the winters too frigid. The shallow seas on the continents probably buffered the temperature of the nearby air, keeping it relatively constant.

1. According to paragraph 1, which of the following is true of the Late Cretaceous climate?

A. Summers were very warm and winters were very cold.

B. Shallow seas on the continents caused frequent temperature changes.

C. The climate was very similar to today's climate.

D. The climate did not change dramatically from season to season.

A
B
C
D

Paragraph 2: At the end of the Cretaceous, the geological record shows that these seaways retreated from the continents back into the major ocean basins. No one knows why. Over a period of about 100,000 years, while the seas pulled back, climates around the world became dramatically more extreme: warmer days, cooler nights; hotter summers, colder winters. Perhaps dinosaurs could not tolerate these extreme temperature changes and became extinct.

2. Which of the following reasons is suggested in paragraph 2 for the extinction of the dinosaurs?

A. Changes in the lengths of the days and nights during the late Cretaceous period

B. Droughts caused by the movement of seaways back into the oceans

C. The change from mild to severe climates during the Late Cretaceous period

D. An extreme decrease in the average yearly temperature over 10,000 years

A
B
C
D

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Paragraph 3: If true, though, why did cold-blooded animals such as snakes, lizards, turtles, and crocodiles survive the freezing winters and torrid summers? These animals are at the mercy of the climate to maintain a livable body temperature. It's hard to understand why they would not be affected, whereas dinosaurs were left too crippled to cope, especially if, as some scientists believe, dinosaurs were warm-blooded. Critics also point out that the shallow seaways had retreated from and advanced on the continents numerous times during the Mesozoic, so why did the dinosaurs survive the climatic changes associated with the earlier fluctuations but not with this one? Although initially appealing, the hypothesis of a simple climatic change related to sea levels is insufficient to explain all the data.

3. According to paragraph 3, which of the following is true of changes in climate before the Cretaceous period and the effect of these changes on dinosaurs?

A. Climate changes associated with the movement of seaways before the Cretaceous period did not cause dinosaurs to become extinct.

A
B
C
D

B. Changes in climate before the Cretaceous period caused severe fluctuations in sea level, resulting in the extinction of the dinosaurs.

C. Frequent changes in climate before the Cretaceous period made dinosaurs better able to maintain a livable body temperature.

D. Before the Cretaceous period there were few changes in climate, and dinosaurs flourished.

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Paragraph 4: Dissatisfaction with conventional explanations for dinosaur extinctions led to a surprising observation that, in turn, has suggested a new hypothesis. Many plants and animals disappear abruptly from the fossil record as one moves from layers of rock documenting the end of the Cretaceous up into rocks representing the beginning of the Cenozoic (the era after the Mesozoic). Between the last layer of Cretaceous rock and the first layer of Cenozoic rock, there is often a thin layer of clay. Scientists felt that they could get an idea of how long the extinctions took by determining how long it took to deposit this one centimeter of clay and they thought they could determine the time it took to deposit the clay by determining the amount of the element iridium (Ir) it contained.

4. In paragraph 4, all the following questions are answered EXCEPT:

A. Why is there a layer of clay between the rocks of the Cretaceous and Cenozoic?

A
B
C
D

B. Why were scientists interested in determining how long it took to deposit the layer of clay at the end of the Cretaceous?

C. What was the effect of the surprising observation scientists made?

D. Why did scientists want more information about the dinosaur extinctions at the end of the Cretaceous?

Paragraph 6: In view of these facts, scientists hypothesized that a single large asteroid, about 10 to 15 kilometers across, collided with Earth, and the resulting fallout created the boundary clay. Their calculations show that the impact kicked up a dust cloud that cut off sunlight for several months, inhibiting photosynthesis in plants; decreased surface temperatures on continents to below freezing; caused extreme episodes of acid rain; and significantly raised long-term global temperatures through the greenhouse effect. This disruption of food chain and climate would have eradicated the dinosaurs and other organisms in less than fifty years.

5. Paragraph 6 mentions all of the following effects of the hypothesized asteroid collision EXCEPT

A. a large dust cloud that blocked sunlight

A
B
C
D

B. an immediate drop in the surface temperatures of the continents

C. an extreme decrease in rainfall on the continents

D. a long-term increase in global temperatures