Name: Date: Score: / 6

The Everglades: Reading Comprehension

Nonfiction: Places · about 190 words

Read the passage. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

The Everglades

At the southern tip of Florida lies the Everglades, a vast wetland that has been called a "river of grass." The Everglades is actually a slow-moving sheet of water, often only a few inches to a few feet deep, flowing south from Lake Okeechobee toward Florida Bay. Tall sawgrass grows out of the water as far as the eye can see.

The Everglades is the only place on Earth where both alligators and crocodiles live side by side. Alligators prefer fresh water, while American crocodiles live in the salty water near the coast. The Everglades is also home to manatees, wading birds like herons and roseate spoonbills, and the rare Florida panther.

Over the last hundred years, people drained large parts of the Everglades to build farms and cities. Canals and dams changed how water flowed. As a result, the wetland shrank to about half its original size, and many animals lost their homes.

In 1947, Everglades National Park was created to protect part of this special place. Today, scientists and government leaders are working on a huge restoration project to return more natural water flow to the Everglades.

1. **Main idea:** What is this passage mostly about?

   A. crocodiles around the world B. the history of Florida cities C. how canals are built D. the Everglades, its wildlife, and efforts to protect it

2. **Detail:** Why is the Everglades called a "river of grass"?

   A. It flows uphill. B. It has grassy mountains. C. It is a slow-moving sheet of water with tall sawgrass. D. It is a river of green paint.

3. **Detail:** What makes the Everglades unique?

   A. It is in Canada. B. Alligators and crocodiles live side by side. C. It is always frozen. D. It has no animals.

4. **Detail:** Where do American crocodiles live in the Everglades?

   A. in fresh water only B. in trees C. in salty water near the coast D. on mountains

5. **Detail:** When was Everglades National Park created?

   A. 1872 B. 1947 C. 2001 D. 1776

6. **Inference:** Why did the Everglades shrink?

ANSWER KEY

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