

Closely read the passage below. Then select the best answer to each

### Comes a Turtle, Comes the

The morning chill carried that clean-sheet crispness; that cleansing sort of air. Actually, for the tip of Long Island in early December, this weather was a little late in coming. But walking from our house to the shore of the bay, the new crystal air made me finally look ahead toward winter and turn my back to what had been a spectacular, lingering fall.

Every autumn here witnesses two great migrations: one axiomatic and one nearly unknown. Everybody knows birds fly south for the winter. Here, the marshes and barrier islands are interstate arteries for heavy traffic of songbirds, waterfowl, hawks and others. But except for people who fish, almost no one realizes the greater migration begins just beyond the beach.

This year, as usual, swarms of fish had arrived from New England in the last few weeks and departed down the coast in great migrating waves. They included millions and millions of anchovies and menhaden, pursued to the surface by armies of bluefish, striped bass, little tuna. Along the seafloor battalions of summer flounder, black sea bass, tautog, porgies and others moved to deeper grounds. Offshore, beyond sight of land on the rolling blue prairies of the sea, sharks and tunas passed like herds on the Serengeti (though now, like those herds, much diminished). Herring and mackerel had arrived mid-November with dolphins on their tails, and the remaining schools of striped bass, fattening for their long run to winter grounds, gobbled them greedily. Even now, into December, a few boats were still hunting bass. But we had caught enough, our freezer was stocked for winter and our smoker racks were busy, and we'd just hauled the boat.

Patricia and I put our footsteps to the gravelly beach and walked to the inlet to see who'd recently arrived. Bonaparte's gulls, a few long-tailed ducks, some black scoters and in the distance the feathered missiles called gannets were sending geysers skyward as a flock poured into a herring school. To me, this seasonal sense of place in the path of migrations, this finger on the pulse of the planet, is the purest joy.

We were just rounding the inlet entrance when, among the shells and tide-wrack, my gaze caught something so unexpected — here, and in this near-frost — it seemed improbable as a fallen angel: a sea turtle.

It was a baby, with a platter-sized shell. Species: Kemp's ridley, most endangered of all Atlantic turtles. Stunned by the boreal air and 49-degree water, the turtle's only sign of life was a mark in the wet sand suggesting a flipper had moved sometime since high tide had left it and withdrawn.

This nation that sees itself stretching from sea to shining sea conceals beneath her broad, waving skirts of bordering oceans some of the greatest wildlife in the world. And because it's so effectively hidden, it's some of the least understood.

Though the saltiness of our blood and tears speaks from within of our parent ocean, for most people oceans seem distant, out of sight and generally out of mind. Even many who love nature, who see our landscape and imagine herds of bison and skies darkened by passenger pigeons and clouds of waterfowl, who escape into the woods or mountains or even the shore, seem to get their vision stranded on the beach as though wildlife stops at the high-tide line, where our little stunned turtle reminded us that so much actually begins.

The water makes a perfect disguise that heightens the mystery, but in some ways that's a great pity, because the closest thing we have left to the thundering herds and great flocks is in the sea. Extending your vision into the grand swirl and suck of the many-fingered tides and beyond will grant you a renewed sense of both the abundance and fragility of life.

Whether or not we can see, hear, or feel the ocean from our own home territory, the ocean certainly feels all of us. Between a third and half the world's people now live within 50 miles of a coast (as any traveler can attest). In China, population density is three times higher in coastal areas than elsewhere. The collective weight of humanity may rest on land, but we levy heavy pressure on the sea. Most of us exert our most direct interaction with the sea through the seafood we buy. But even air quality affects water quality because what goes up alights elsewhere, and climate change is challenging ocean habitats by melting sea ice and cooking corals, undermining food supplies for penguins, polar bears and reef fishes.

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55 People who think of themselves as conservationists carry a concern for wildlife, wetlands  
 and habitat quality as part of their sense of right and wrong. It is time to take these concerns  
 below high tide. Most people would not question a hawk's place in the sky, nor ask what  
 good is a gazelle, nor wonder whether the world really needs wild orchids. Yet when told of  
 60 the plight of, say, sharks, many still think it quite reasonable to inquire, "What good are they;  
 why do we need them?" Fifty million buffalo once roamed the rolling green prairies of  
 North America. Gunners reduced them to near-extinction. Now, hunters cut from the same  
 cloth are at work on the rolling blue prairies of the sea and, already, the big fish — including  
 miracles like thousand-pound, warm-blooded bluefin tuna — are 90 percent gone. What we  
 regret happening on land may again happen in the sea. Those who care about wildlife  
 65 should get to know about oceans.

We brought the turtle home and warmed it a bit in the sun. It began to shed tears, a sign  
 of ongoing glandular function and, for us, heightened hope. Soon a flipper waved — a certain  
 signal of persistent life. Shortly thereafter, the aquarium people arrived to bring our little  
 patient into veterinary rehab. Slowly warmed, within a few hours it was conscious and  
 70 swimming, safe until release next spring.

Whether we help one unlucky creature or wish to save the world, for each of us the  
 challenge and opportunity is to cherish all life as the gift it is, envision it whole, seek to know  
 it truly, and undertake — with our minds, hearts and hands — to restore its abundance.  
 Where there's life there's hope, and so no place can inspire more hopefulness than  
 75 the great, life-making sea, home to creatures of mystery and majesty, whose future now  
 depends on human compassion, and our next move.

—Carl Safina

"Comes a Turtle, Comes the World"

<http://www.patagonia.com>, Winter 2006

15 A purpose of the second paragraph is to draw attention to

- ① a popular vacation spot
- ② the activities of the fishermen
- ③ the beauty of the islands
- ④ a lesser known event

16 The details in lines 11 through 18 reinforce the idea of

17 The phrase "who'd recently arrived" in line 22 refers to

- ① predatory species      ③ migrating wildlife
- ② other observers      ④ fishing boats

18 The figurative language in line 23 is used to suggest

19 Knowing the turtle's species in lines 29 and 30 serves to make its discovery more

- ① serious      ③ natural
- ② mysterious      ④ controversial

20 As used in line 30, the word "boreal" most

21 The author's reference to "the saltiness of our blood and tears" (line 36) exposes the irony of our

- ① disinterest in the ocean
- ② efforts in conservation
- ③ destructive habits
- ④ current situation

22 Which lines establish an important cause and effect relationship in the passage?

- ① lines 5 and 6      ③ lines 49 and 50
- ② lines 19 and 20      ④ lines 55 and 56

23 Which two lines best reflect the central claim?

- ☐ "Actually, for the tip . . . late in coming" (lines 1 and 2)
- ☐ "This year, as usual . . . migrating waves" (lines 10 and 11)
- ☐ "Most of us exert . . . seafood we buy" (lines 50 and 51)
- ☐ "What we regret . . . about oceans" (lines 63 through 65)
- ☐ "Where there's life . . . next move" (lines 74 through 76)

①  
☐

nearly means the same as which two words?

- ☐ clean
- ☐ cold
- ☐ salty
- ☐ frigid
- ☐ hazy

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- (2) : author waits until lines 66 through 70 to
  - (3) reveal the fate of the baby turtle in order to
  - (4) present a counterclaim
  - (2) inject humor
  - (3) introduce irony
  - (4) maintain reader interest
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