



Daily Article (Bharath's Reading list) - Answers and Explanations 12.01.2024

Article link : [Link](#) (How "Wilderness" Was Invented Without Indigenous Peoples)

1. Which of the following options best summarizes the central idea of the article?

- A. Many highly biodiverse landscapes are strongly linked to land use by preindustrial or Indigenous peoples, debunking the myth that human activity is damaging to nature
- B. Wilderness remained unaffected by destructive human influence until European colonization, which affected the balance in nature by wiping out Indigenous communities and their sustainable approaches to the natural world
- C. Cultural beliefs, rather than scientific fact, have shaped the "wilderness" concept; Indigenous approaches reveal that human activity need not always damage nature and may even benefit conservation
- D. The myth of 'pristine wilderness' emerged with industrialisation and European colonisation; the universal adoption of preindustrial or Indigenous practices for managing nature's resources is the need of the hour

Explanation : C

Option C summarizes the central idea of the article best. Option B is easily eliminated, Note that option A does not mention 'wilderness', which is what the article is primarily about. The second half of option D- that the universal adoption of preindustrial or Indigenous practices for managing nature's resources is the need of the hour- is not in line with what the article says. Option C is better than D.

2. All the following, according to the article, contributed to the myth of 'pristine wilderness', except:

- A. The belief among European colonists that Indigenous people have agency in shaping nature

- B. The dramatic depopulation of Indigenous communities due to colonization
- C. The European belief in the concept of terra nullius
- D. The Industrial Revolution resulting in changed conceptions of humans and the natural world

Explanation: A

Option A is the exact opposite of what the article says: 'Within the pristine myth, these people don't have agency, and that's pretty important to the whole concept' of that myth.'

3. Which of the following is incorrect, based on the article?

- A. Many 'wild' places are actually a product of human intervention
- B. Cultural burning practices in Australia and the American West have led to the wildfires that, exacerbated by climate change, have scorched both regions in recent years.
- C. With industrialisation, the Western world has lost the idea that humans too are part of the ecosystem
- D. Displacing Indigenous people for the sake of "wilderness" has negatively impacted landscapes

Explanation: B

All options except B are true. The article says that the loss of cultural burning practices in Australia and the American West is linked to the wildfires.