

Cold-Read Task

Read “John James Audubon and the Natural World” by Gabriela Hernandez from the Summer 2005 edition of Louisiana Cultural Vistas. Then answer the questions.

1. Part A

Reread this sentences from the passage.

Upon arrival, he was prompted by an innate desire to acquire a thorough knowledge of the birds of this happy country.

Which explains the meaning of the phrase *innate desire to acquire a thorough knowledge* as it is used in the passage?

- a. Audubon did not grasp how America could be so diverse.
- b. Audubon was urged by his father to study nature in America.
- c. Audubon felt a deep-seated passion to the study of birds in America.
- d. Audubon did not excel as a student but struggled to learn more each day.

Part B

Which sentence from the passage **best** helps in understanding the meaning of the phrase *innate desire to acquire a thorough knowledge*?

- a. “His new name and transatlantic passage gave Audubon the opportunity to reinvent himself.” (paragraph 7)
- b. “The vast American wilderness greatly impressed John James.” (paragraph 8)
- c. “The diversity of America’s unspoiled natural lands fascinated the 18 year-old, and birds became the focus of his affections.” (paragraph 8)
- d. “The desire was both an artistic and therapeutic exercise for John James.” (paragraph 9)

2. **Part A**

How does paragraph 3 introduce the main ideas of the passage?

- a. The insinuation of John James Audubon’s mysterious past suggests a lack of professional study and appreciation of his work.
- b. The details surrounding the place of John James Audubon’s birth leads the reader to question how he came to be such a famous American artist.
- c. The rhetorical question focuses on John James Audubon’s personal life and the root of his desire to explore nature in America.
- d. The description of the death of John James Audubon’s mother establishes that time as key to his development as an artist.

Part B

Which sentence from paragraph 3 **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- a. “John James Audubon eludes us.”
- b. “Who was he, and what fed his passion for American wildlife?”
- c. “Audubon’s complex identity is apparent in the details of his birth on April 26, 1785, in the French colony of Saint-Domingue.”
- d. “The captain already had a wife in France, so the illicit couple never married, and Jeanne died just a few months after her son’s birth.”

3. Write the letter of **ten** details from the passage into the table below to create a summary of John James Audubon’s life. Be sure the details appear in chronological order. **Two** details **will not** be used.

Summary of John James Audubon's Life	
1.	6.
2.	7.
3.	8.
4.	9.
5.	10.

- a. When the French Revolution begins in Paris, Audubon's father and his wife officially adopt him and change his name.
- b. After his mother's death, he remains in the Caribbean and is raised by a nurse.
- c. Although it began with the ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity, the French Revolution was soon overtaken by the brutal Reign of Terror.
- d. Due to political turmoil in Haiti, John James Audubon moves to France to live with his father's wife.
- e. Audubon's study of nature coincides with American expansion and increased business opportunities.
- f. Audubon's father sends him to America, and he reinvents himself with the English name John James.
- g. Audubon travels for six years from Pennsylvania to Kentucky and New Orleans in order to examine American birds in their natural environment.
- h. Although he was supposed to be managing the father's land, John James was most impressed by the American wilderness.
- i. As a developing country, America provided more business opportunities than Europe.
- j. John James Audubon is born on April 26, 1785, in Saint-Domingue.
- k. The completion of Audubon's work, *The Birds of America*, establishes his fame as an environmentalist.
- l. The Audubon family is imprisoned in France when Jean-Jacques is only nine years old.

4. Which sentence accurately states the advantage of using pictures in "John James Audubon and the Natural World"?

- a. The photos of stately homes once occupied by John James Audubon depict the artist's living conditions as he was engaged in his work.
- b. The detailed map traces John James Audubon's six-year journey from Pennsylvania to New Orleans as he studied American fowl and their habitats.
- c. The illustration of John James Audubon allows the reader to imagine the rugged outdoorsman in his element as he studied North American wildlife.
- d. The richly-colored examples of John James Audubon's paintings allow the reader to experience examples of the artistic accomplishments described in the article.

5. **Part A**

Reread this sentence from paragraph 9.

None but aerial companions suited my fancy. No roof seemed so secure to me as that formed of the dense foliage under which the feathered tribes were seen to resort.

How does the use of Audubon's own words impact the meaning and tone of the passage?

- a. Audubon's amused tone shows his enjoyment in watching the aerial performances of the birds.
- b. Audubon's skeptical tone attempts to question whether or not the feathered tribes could be trusted.
- c. Audubon's passionate tone expresses that he was comforted by the birds and their natural landscape.
- d. Audubon's authoritative tone indicates that he understood that a roof constructed of foliage was not safe and secure.

Part B

Which sentence from the passage conveys the same tone as the sentence in Part A?

- a. "He resolved 'to spend...my time in that study...and to draw each individual of its natural size and coloring.'" (Paragraph 8)
- b. "I felt that an intimacy with them....bordering on frenzy must accompany my steps through life.'" (Paragraph 9)
- c. "Audubon encountered an era of unlimited potential and westward expansion." (Paragraph 10)
- d. "Vision was the door to success, and resourceful creativity was the key." (Paragraph 10)

6. How does paragraph 10 develop the idea of entrepreneurship in the passage?

- a. It supports the idea that birds are fascinating creatures to study.
- b. It presents an idea that is in contrast to the description of the untamed wilderness.
- c. It extends the idea that westward expansion is necessary to the success of America.
- d. It reinforces the idea that America has much to offer to those who wish to be successful.

7. How does the information presented in the passage connect Audubon's early life experiences and his "pioneering spirit"?
- a. Audubon's tumultuous early life caused him to seek comfort in the peace and tranquility of the wilderness.
 - b. Audubon's movement to various places throughout his lifetime made him feel restless and without a home.
 - c. Audubon's illegitimate birth filled him with embarrassment and caused him to reject the outside world.
 - d. Audubon's desire to be a great artist inspired him to travel the world and escape from his own reality.

8. **Part A**

What is the central idea of the passage?

- a. Audubon's life was filled with pain and suffering.
- b. Audubon presents realistic depictions of American wildlife.
- c. Audubon's early life impacted his love for nature and the art he created.
- d. Audubon is one of the most well-known artists of the 1800s.

Part B

Which sentence from the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- a. "From the statuesque white pelican to the delicate ruby-throated hummingbird, we catch glimpses of nature's splendor." (paragraph 1)
- b. "The captain already had a wife in France, so the illicit couple never married, and Jeanne died just a few months after her son's birth." (paragraph 3)
- c. "Once completed, this collection established Audubon's reputation as the naturalist who created, in the words of French zoologist Georges Cuvier, 'the greatest monument yet erected by Art to Nature.'" (paragraph 11)
- d. "Exploring these stories will give us a deeper understanding of the life of this complex French immigrant who embodied the 19th-century American experience in his fascination with the natural world." (paragraph 12)

9. *Reread this sentence from paragraph 10.*

Vision was the door to success, and resourceful creativity was the key.

Write a multiparagraph essay that explains what this sentence means and how it reveals the author's attitude (tone) toward Audubon's work as an artist. Cite evidence from the passage to support your response. Be sure to observe the conventions of standard English.