

READING AND USE OF ENGLISH

Part 7

You are going to read a newspaper article about various national parks in the United States. For questions 43–52, choose from the parks (A–D). The parks may be chosen more than once.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Of which national park does the writer mention

- a reason why a certain rule in the park is logical? 43
- a reason why the place changed from one official category to another? 44
- the large variety of different types of environment to be found there? 45
- creatures that cannot be found anywhere else? 46
- a belief that visitors may initially feel that it is not a remarkable place? 47
- particular places within the park where certain creatures might be spotted? 48
- surprise at the low number of visitors the place attracts? 49
- a historical difference between this park and other national parks? 50
- something that can always be seen by visitors when they are there? 51
- advice to bring a certain piece of equipment? 52

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A

Channel Islands, California

Though Channel Islands National Park lies just 11 miles off the southern California coast, less than an hour away by boat, few people actually venture to this undeveloped, eight-island chain (five comprise the national park). What they're missing: a sublime throwback to California of old, where craggy arches, spindly spires and grassy hills jut up from the Pacific, without a car or mobile phone in sight. What makes Channel Islands even more special are its plants and animals – more than 150 endemic or unique species have earned it the nickname 'North American Galapagos'. This is the only place in the world you'll see, for example, island fox, island deer mouse and yellow-blooming coreopsis. Just as amazing is the life in the surrounding waters: more than 30 species of sea animals – sea lions, elephant seals, whales – cavort about. Of special note: the largest aggregation of blue whales in the world convenes here every summer.

B

Pinnacles, California

One second you're driving along a two-lane road just two hours south of San Francisco, enjoying pretty, chaparral-carpeted hills. The next, out of nowhere, looms the sky-high castle of jagged, red-rock spikes and monoliths belonging to America's newest national park. Upgraded from national monument to national park in 2013 due in part to its important condor recovery program, Pinnacles is little trekked and little known – one of the best reasons to visit. Its postage-stamp size, just 26,606 acres makes it manageable in a day. Strike out on more than 30 miles of trails ranging from easy to arduous, and venture into pitch-black, bat-inhabited caves (take a headlamp). And always keep an eye out for condors, those prehistoric-looking raptors with wingspans reaching up to 10 ft; their favorite haunts include High Peaks in the early morning or early evening, or along the ridge just southeast of the campground.

C

Denali, Alaska

Only one road accesses six-million-acre Denali, a single, mostly unpaved, 92-mile strip that opens up dramatic views of the subarctic wilderness – and perhaps offers the best chance to experience wildlife of any national park. No cars are allowed beyond Mile 15; everyone must jump aboard a shuttle bus. This is a good thing, given the road's precipitous, winding nature (and the temptation to keep peering at the ever-more-dramatic landscape). A constant companion on the horizon are the massive, snowcapped peaks of the Alaska Range, topped by the surreal, 20,320-ft Denali (also known as Mount McKinley), North America's tallest mountain. Along the way, keep an eye out for sightings of the park's 'big five,' Alaska style: moose, caribou, sheep, wolf and cinnamon-color Toklat grizzlies. At the end of the road awaits Wonder Lake, with stunning reflections of Denali on clear-sky days.

D

Everglades, Florida

At first glance, Florida's Everglades does not impress. Its centerpiece is a miles-wide river at most just a few inches deep that creeps through expansive green-brown sawgrass from Lake Okeechobee to Florida Bay. That's not the grandeur one might expect from a national park. But take a closer look and you'll discover that this seemingly nondescript, low-lying, subtropical land, actually comprising several different ecosystems (sawgrass prairie, jungle-like hammock and mangrove swamp), is not quite so dull. Indeed, these million-plus acres of wetlands harbour 200 types of fish, 350 species of birds, 120 different kinds of trees and more than 1,000 kinds of plants — and that's just for starters. Everglades was founded in 1947 to preserve this unique jumble of ecosystems, the first national park established for the sake of flora and fauna rather than geologic scenery.