

Practice Exercise 7

Shy, wary, and seldom seen, perhaps no creature in nature has suffered so much as the wise, perceptive raven. It is a shiny black bird, a member of the crow family. Primarily a scavenger, it will, like the other members of the crow family, eat grain crops, eggs, and fledgling chicks. Its call is a harsh, croaking caw. It can be tamed and taught to perform complicated tricks, even to mimic human speech.

The raven has been the object of superstition for centuries. In the myths and folklore of many countries, the raven was a bird of evil. Even the mere sighting of a raven was believed an evil omen. If one alighted on a church or dwelling, it was taken as a certain sign of death or disaster. In certain areas of the United States, some people still believe that the raven is an evil omen.

1. Because the raven sometimes eats crops, eggs, and chicks, you can conclude that
 - a. farmers are fond of the magnificent bird.
 - b. farmers dislike the bird.
 - c. eggs make a bird's coat shiny.
 - d. it is an intelligent bird.
2. From the fact that the raven's call is a harsh, croaking caw, you can conclude that
 - a. its call does not win it friends and admirers.
 - b. many people love to listen to it sing.
 - c. it is possessed by demons.
 - d. it is a shy, cautious bird.
3. From the main idea, you can conclude that the
 - a. raven is an evil bird.
 - b. raven is a friend to farmers everywhere, celebrated in the folklore of many countries.
 - c. raven is an endangered species.
 - d. raven's appearance, call, and habits inspired superstitions about it.
4. Underline the sentence that supports the conclusion that the raven is an intelligent bird.