

Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions using clues from the text.

## The Wolf's Howl: A Complex Conversation



A lone wolf stood on a rocky outcrop as twilight deepened over the forest. Her fur, a mix of grays and browns, blended almost perfectly with the fading light. She lifted her muzzle towards the sky, a long, mournful sound escaping her throat. It was not a simple cry, but a complex series of rising and falling notes, held for different lengths of time, then repeated.



After a moment, she paused, her ears swiveling, listening intently. The air was still, broken only by the distant hoot of an owl. Then, from far away, a faint reply echoed through the trees. Another wolf, or perhaps several, answered her call with a similar pattern, though slightly different in pitch. The first wolf let out another, shorter howl, then sat down, her gaze fixed on the direction of the answering sound.

This exchange continued for several minutes. Each wolf seemed to wait for the other, sending out their unique song across the vast wilderness. It was as if they were having a conversation without words, sharing information over many miles. The sounds carried easily through the cool evening air, reaching places a visual signal never could.

Finally, the first wolf rose and began to trot purposefully down the slope, heading towards the area from which the strongest replies had come. She moved with a quiet determination, clearly knowing where she was going. The forest, once silent, now felt alive with the invisible threads of sound connecting distant members of the pack.

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS



- (1) **Based on the passage, what can you conclude about wolf howling?**
- (A) It is a method for wolves to share information over long distances.
  - (B) It is a way for wolves to scare away other animals.
  - (C) Wolves howl only when they are sad or lonely.
  - (D) Wolf howls are always exactly the same.
- (2) **What does the passage suggest about why the wolf paused and listened intently after her first howl?**
- (A) She was waiting for other wolves to respond to her call.
  - (B) She was afraid of predators in the forest.
  - (C) She was tired and needed to rest her voice.
  - (D) She was enjoying the quiet of the night.
- (3) **The author mentions the wolf's howl as a 'complex series of rising and falling notes' most likely to show that...**
- (A) wolf howls are not simple noises but carry specific meaning.
  - (B) the wolf is practicing singing for a performance.
  - (C) all wolves can sing perfectly in tune.
  - (D) the wolf is trying to attract human attention.
- (4) **Which statement is NOT well-supported by evidence from the passage?**
- (A) The wolf howled to warn other animals to stay away from her territory.
  - (B) The wolf used sound to communicate with others far away.



**C** The wolf could recognize the calls of other wolves.

**D** The wolf knew where to go after hearing the replies.

**(5) What clues in the passage helped you infer that the wolf's howling was a form of communication, not just a random sound? Use details from the passage.**

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