

Useful Pariah

► **FRIENDLESS** in a cold world, the coyote skulks the plains and foothills, seeking the scraps and leavings that make his meager living. He is the Ishmael of the four-footed world, the hunter of waste places, always raiding and thieving yet never prospering. Nobody ever saw a really fat coyote.

Coyotes are in ill repute with ranchers and stockmen because they occasionally make off with lambs and stray calves. Similarly, rangers and wardens of wildlife preservation areas sometimes feel impelled to cut down their numbers.

Not for the poor coyote, however, are the determined hunts with dogs and guns that have all but exterminated their bigger cousins, the wolves, from the continental United States. Traps and poison baits are all he is likely to get, to help him out of a world that neither appreciates nor loves him.

Newest among the trap mechanisms, and nearest the coyote is apt to get to the dignity of death by gunshot, is a short-barreled firearm that goes off when he grabs a tempting bait. But instead of discharging a bullet, it only belches a charge of poison into his mouth.

Although every man's hand is against him, the coyote is far from useless. His very way of life, as a snapper-up of un-

considered trifles, gives him high usefulness as a natural instrument of control over rabbits, prairie dogs and smaller rodents that would otherwise get completely out of hand and devour so much of the range that nothing would be left for the livestock.

Moreover, since the coyote will eat anything he can get his teeth into, he is about the most effective disposer of carrion there is in the West—better even than buzzards and crows. A bear will eat more carrion than a coyote because a bear is bigger; but there aren't as many bears as there are coyotes, and bears don't wander the plains.

Finally, although we refuse to associate with the coyote while he is alive, we are not too proud to wear his castoff clothing after we have killed and stripped him. During the hey-day (or hey-hey-day) of collegiate fur coats a couple of decades ago, they were always called 'coonskin—but most of them were doctored-up coyote skin. And how many of today's luxurious "Siberian wolf" coats actually originate on the plains of Wyoming and Colorado must be left as a trade secret of the furriers.

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who do not have perseverance to finish a job. This ability to finish what is started is a prime requisite for solving scientific problems, whether they be in atomic energy, disease control, industrial technology or in everyday life. Sometimes those who quit have reasoning ability, but it isn't useful to them unless they use it.

Doing well on this sample of the full test (which takes three hours to do) is creditable, but it does not mean that you can quit what you are doing and become a scientist. To be a professional scientist requires many years of study and preparation as well as native ability. But there are many situations in your daily work and life that require the same kinds of ability that scientists need.

Again don't look at the answers until you have finished the whole test. When you have finished, score the questions right or wrong. Count the number that are right. That is your score. You can rate yourself by comparing your score with interpretations given at the end of the answers.

After you have done the test you will appreciate the abilities of the boys and girls, 14 to 18 years of age, who win honors in the Science Talent Search.

These test questions are some of those used in one step in selecting the winners and honorable mentions of the Eighth Science Talent Search, conducted by Science Service as one of the activities of Science Clubs of America.

Forty top Science Talent Search winners from all parts of the nation will arrive in Washington March 3 for a five-day meeting with leading scientists at which thousands of dollars in scholarships will be awarded. An additional 260 contestants are

being given honorable mentions and recommended to colleges, universities and technical schools as top-notch scientists of the future. In 18 states additional prizes and scholarships are being awarded to state winners.

The science aptitude test is only one of the techniques used in selecting boys and girls who are scientifically gifted. In addition each contestant filled out a personal data blank and wrote an essay describing some scientific project he has done or wishes to do. Teachers filled out a recommendation form and principals reported scholarship.

Taking the test and competing in the search comes as a culmination of high school science study and science club activity for thousands of boys and girls of America's public, private and parochial secondary schools.

Don't read further. Cover up the following paragraph until you have taken the test.

Correct answers to Part A are: 1, 2; 2, 3; 3, 4; 4, 3; 5, 4; 6, 4; 7, 2; 8, 4; 9, 2; 10, 4; 11, 1; 12, 3; 13, 1; 14, 2.

For Part B, Section K: 83, 2; 84, 1; 85, 2. Section D: 61, 2.

Part C: 101, 3; 102, 4; 103, 3; 104, 2; 105, 4; 106, A; 107, B; 108, B; 109, A; 110, A; 111, C; 112, B; 113, 2; 114, 17; 115, 7; 116, 11; 117, 9; 118, 22; 119, 8; 120, 5; 121, 20; 122, 13; 123, 14; 124, 4; 125, 6; 126, 3; 127, 23; 128, 1 or 21; 129, 18; 130, 10; 131, 8; 132, 9; 133, 12; 134, 6; 135, 3; 136, 1; 137, 4.

Your score is the number you answered correctly. If your score is 35 or better, you may have a real talent for science. Average science aptitude is indicated by scores ranging from 21 to 34.

None of the questions was answered correctly by more than 90% of the high school seniors. The easiest ones were 1, 2, 5, 10, 11, 107, 109, 110, 111 and 112. Questions on chronology and scientific prefixes were the most missed. The "toughies" included 13, 14, 83-85, 105, 108, 114-122, 124-128 and 134-137.

If your score disappointed you, remember that this examination was not given to all high school seniors, only those with an interest in science. Most of them rank in the upper one-fourth of their classes.


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Sawdust is a good mulch for small fruits, especially blueberries.

One important industrial use of *silver* is in photographic films in which silver nitrate is the light-sensitive element.

Norway, a country in which *match-making* is a big business, is having a match shortage, although present production is greater than prewar output; exports to match-hungry nations are blamed for the local condition.

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