

## CHAPTER 9 — 100 Years of National Parks

### ***Pelican Island***

***Reservation*** - created in 1903 by Theodore Roosevelt to protect the brown pelicans from hunters

***Refuge*** - a place that provides shelter or protection

***Conservation*** - planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect

***Instability*** - not steady

***Self-sufficient*** - capable of providing for one's own needs

***Environmentalists*** - a person working to solve environmental problems, as air and water pollution, the exhaustion of natural resources, and uncontrolled population growth

***Set a trend*** - move in a new direction

**I**n 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt created the Pelican Island Reservation. His purpose was to protect the brown pelicans that nest on the island from hunters. This refuge was the first major conservation area ever created. Today, national parks, forests, and refuges cover almost 95 million acres across the United States.

Currently, there is a debate concerning oil drilling in the largest refuge in Alaska. This refuge covers more than 19 million acres. Drilling for oil in the refuge would provide Americans with anywhere from 4 to 11 billion barrels of oil every year. Americans use an average of 7 billion barrels every year. The United States currently relies on the Middle East for some of its oil. In this time of war and instability, many veterans and government officials think it is important for the United States to become self-sufficient.

Environmentalists oppose drilling in the refuge. They argue that conserving natural wildlife is more important than gaining oil and money. Environmentalists fear that allowing oil to be drilled on the refuge would set a trend for future conservation plans. They think we should, instead, focus on conservation plans that encourage Americans to use less oil.

**Should Americans drill for oil in the Alaskan refuge?  
Can you think of ways Americans can use less oil?**

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## UPDATE—Additional Questions

**The Louisiana Purchase:**

1. Can you think of an example in recent history when the United States experienced the positive effects of being a superpower? The negative?

**Snake River Dam Removal:**

2. Conservationists and commercial fishermen are infavor of dam removal. Explain how these two groups support the same side for different reasons. Why do farmers oppose dam removal?

**The Kennewick Man:**

3. Who deserves the remains?

**Methow River Irrigation Rights:**

4. Is it fair for the Department of Ecology to interfere with water rights that have belonged to people for years? Do you think the farmers are doing their part to help conserve water?

**100 Years of National Parks:**

5. The government spends billions of dollars on land conservation. How much is conservation worth? Can we put a price on it? With constant struggles over the federal budget, high unemployment, declining medical care for the elderly, and many other issues, is conservation the best use of our money? How would our lives be different without national parks?

**Endangered Species:**

6. Who or what is really endangered? Has science completely proved that surroundings are affecting the birth rates and life cycles of pygmy rabbits? Can you think of any other possible factors?

**Canada Rejects EPA Request to Sample Columbia River Water:**

7. Do you think Canada is avoiding preventive solutions because its own citizens are not affected by the pollution? Is there a way to hold countries responsible for *thinking globally*?

**Global Positioning System:**

8. Is the use of GPS for tracking humans and human activity a precautionary or invasive method? Could it be both?

**Repatriation Act:**

9. Considering that the history of the Americas is still a mystery, is it possible to have a law that protects Indian rights without infringing on others' rights? Do you think the two laws (NAGRA and ARPA) can coexist?

**Regarding all Updates:**

10. If you were a mediator in this situation, what solution might you offer?