

1.

The mission of the National Park Service is to preserve and protect the natural and cultural resources “for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations”. Want to help them achieve their mission? Here’s how:

Donate: The national parks are always short on funds (资金). You can donate items to the park bookstore, support a particular program at your favorite national park, or send funds to the National Park Foundation.

Volunteer: If you can’t donate money, consider donating your time. National park service volunteers help build paths, answer visitors’ questions and maintain (维修) buildings. Check out its site to find out more ways you can volunteer in your favorite national park.

Share scientific skills: If you have a background in science, the NPS might be able to use your skills at one of its Research Learning Centers. From collecting and analyzing samples to maintaining equipment and databases, there’s plenty to do to help preserve and protect the natural and cultural resources of our national parks.

Create art: Many national parks have artist-in-residence programs that give artists an opportunity to close to their favorite inspirational settings. You can stay at a remote cabin in Denali National Park or get an in-depth look at the history at Herbert Hoover National Historic Site. The art you create can help inspire future generations to work for the national parks.

Go visit: There’s no better way to show your favorite national park some love than going there to see it. Bring a friend and take in some history and culture. It will remind you why our national parks are really “America’s Best Idea”. Oh, while you’re there, be sure to thank the park workers for all they do to support our national parks.

【1】 What can volunteers do to help the NPS achieve their mission?

- A. Ask visitors some questions.
- B. Set up a particular program.
- C. Advertise their works of art.
- D. Look after park constructions.

【2】 What is helpful at the Research Learning Centers?

- A. Good scientific skills.
- B. Great appreciation of the arts.
- C. A good educational background.
- D. Much knowledge of history and culture.

【3】 Why does the author advise you to visit the national parks?

- A. To have a good time.
- B. To make more friends.
- C. To help the park workers.
- D. To show your care for them.

2. 阅读理解

Just a few years out of law school, I decided that I wanted to write fictions. The only thing I had ever published before was a law-review article. I had made great efforts to write when I came home at night after work, but I was too tired. I decided to quit my job.

I began my new life on a February morning. I sat down at my kitchen table at 7:30 am and made a resolution. Every day I would write until lunchtime. Then I would lie down on the floor for 20 minutes to rest my mind. After that, I would return to work for a few more hours.

In my first year, I sold two stories. Then I wrote a novel, but I thought it wasn’t good enough, so I ended up putting it in a drawer. My second novel, Billy Lynn’s Long Halftime Walk, was published to glowing reviews and received the National Book Critics Circle Award for fiction.

My success sounds like a familiar story, but actually it was far from sudden. I quit my job, and for every story I published in those years, I had at least 30 rejections. The novel that I put away in the drawer took my four years. My breakthrough came in 2006, 18 years after I first sat down to write at my kitchen table.

Sometimes genius (天才) is just the thing that comes out after 20 years of working at your kitchen. Also, doing something truly creative requires the energy of youth.

Orson Welles made his masterpiece, Citizen Kane, at 25. T. S. Eliot wrote The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock at 23.

【1】 When did the author decide to devote himself to writing fictions?

- A. When he was tired from his work.
- B. Straight after graduation from law school.
- C. On being informed his law-review article came out.
- D. When his hobby was disturbed by his work.

【2】 We can infer from the second paragraph that the author .

- A. led a wealthy life
- B. arranged his life reasonably
- C. was too diligent to relax himself
- D. remained single

【3】 What does the author mainly intend to tell us in this passage?

- A. Failure is the mother of success.
- B. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
- C. It is never too old to learn.
- D. It is the first step that costs troublesome.

【4】 Why did the author give the example of Orson Welles and T. S. Eliot?

- A. To make a comparison between them and himself.
- B. To show creativity needs energy and efforts.
- C. To persuade the readers of their great talents.
- D. To recommend their two masterpieces.

3.

When the German psychologist Kurt Lewin moved to the U.S., he found his new home a little puzzling, especially when it came to friendships. “Compared with Germans, Americans seem to make quicker progress toward friendly relations early in the acquaintance process and with many more persons,” he wrote. “Yet this development often stops at a certain point and the quickly acquired friends will, after years of close relations, say goodbye as easily as after a few weeks of acquaintance.”

Lewin thought that this idea of friends as fast fashion might be encouraged by the United States’s high level of residential mobility (居住流动性).

Gillath and Keefer did studies where people took questionnaires about their willingness to things and their history of moving from place to place. They found that people