

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Warm-Up: ACTIVE READING WORKSHEET

## Environmental Solutions

Read the passage below, which covers topics from your textbook. Answer the questions that follow.

In the United States during the last 200 years, over 99 percent of native prairies have been replaced with farmland or urban development, and most of the old-growth forests have been cut. Loss of so much of these vegetation types has meant losses of biodiversity.

A discipline, called **conservation biology**, seeks to identify, protect, and manage natural areas. In areas where human influence is greater—such as agricultural areas, former strip mines, and drained wetlands—biologists may have to reverse major changes and replace missing ecosystem components. For example, returning a strip-mined area to a grassland may involve recontouring the land surface, reintroducing bacteria to the soil, planting grass and shrub seedlings, and even using periodic controlled fires to manage the growth of vegetation. Dealing with a more extreme case like this is called **restoration biology**.

Read each question and write your answer in the space provided.

### SKILL: Identifying Main Ideas

1. What effect of human population growth is identified in the first paragraph?

\_\_\_\_\_

### SKILL: Vocabulary Development

2. What is the meaning of the term *discipline* in this passage?

\_\_\_\_\_

Circle the letter of the phrase that best answers the question.

3. Which of the following describes a likely task of a restoration biologist?
  - a. raising funds needed to create a national park
  - b. returning missing ecosystem components to a drained wetland
  - c. educating citizens about the need to protect a local habitat
  - d. both (a) and (b)