

What is the RACE strategy?

The RACE strategy teaches you to do what good writers do naturally, and can help you answer short-response questions. It helps you maintain a formal style and make sure you are answering all parts of the question with lots of detail. Using the RACE strategy will almost guarantee your answer is complete. RACE stands for:

R Re-state the question

Turn the question into a statement to introduce your paragraph.

*Example: How can students improve their study skills?
Students can improve their study skills by...*

A Answer all parts of the question

Keep in mind that there may be more than one part to the question.

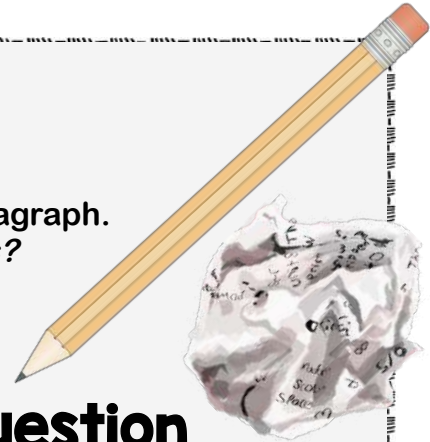
C Cite the text to support your answer

Support your answer evidence from the text. If you use a direct quotation, use quotation marks. Make sure to introduce your evidence with a phrase like:

"For example," "According to the text," "The author states that..." etc.

E Explain your citation

Elaborate on why your textual evidence helps you prove your point. *Use phrases like: "this example shows how..." "this quotation proves that..." etc.*



Tips:

- ✓ While you read, circle and underline important sentences so they're easier to find later
- ✓ Check off each part of the RACE strategy as you write
- ✓ Always re-read your work to check for mistakes and make corrections

RACE strategy example: The Great Auk

The Auk was a sea-going diving bird about the size of a domestic goose, related to puffins. For a bird endowed only with flipper-like wings, and therefore absolutely unable to fly, this species had an astonishing geographic range. It embraced the shores of northern Europe to North Cape, southern Greenland, southern Labrador, and the Atlantic coast of North America as far south as Massachusetts.



In the life history of this bird, a great tragedy was enacted in 1800 by sailors on Funk Island, where men were landed by a ship, and spent several months slaughtering great auks and using their fat for oil. In this process, the bodies of thousands of auks were burned as fuel. On Funk Island, a favorite breeding-place, the great auk was exterminated in 1840, and in Iceland in 1844. Many natives enjoyed eating the bird, and being easily captured, either on land or sea, the commercialism of its day soon obliterated the species. The last living specimen was seen in 1852, and the last dead one was picked up in Trinity Bay, Ireland, in 1853.

--excerpted and adapted from *Our Vanishing Wild Life: Its Extermination and Preservation* by William T. Hornaday, 1913.

Use the RACE strategy to explain how the Great Auk became extinct.

R → The Great Auk became extinct in a number of ways. Sailors who landed on Funk Island burned them as fuel, and natives **A** ate them. According to the text, men "spent several months slaughtering great auks and using their fat for oil," and "natives enjoyed eating the bird." These quotations show that the bird was used by men for various purposes, leading to its extinction. **E**