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Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

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Q19

Which one of the following makes a tool with a stick to scrap insects from a hole in a tree or a log of wood? (a) Fishing cat (b) Orangutan (c) Otter (d) Sloth bear Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2023 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology

Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

Fishing cat. A wetland cat; it does not stick-tool for insects in logs.

(b) Official key

Orangutan. Documented stick tools to extract insects and honey from holes.

(c)

Otter. Uses stones on shellfish in some populations, not this stick-in-hole habit as the textbook case.

(d)

Sloth bear. Tears termite mounds with claws, not a crafted stick probe.

Summary

Official key is (b) **orangutan**. Wild orangutans (and chimpanzees) use sticks as tools to probe holes for insects. Fishing cats, otters and sloth bears forage differently.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Orangutan

Pongo; Borneo and Sumatra; Critically Endangered.

Termite fishing

The chimpanzee neighbour of this orangutan stick-tool PYQ.

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