RW question 5

Many animals, including humans, must sleep, and sleep is known to have a role in everything from healing injuries to encoding information in long-term memory. But some scientists claim that, from an evolutionary standpoint, deep sleep for hours at a time leaves an animal so vulnerable that the known benefits of sleeping seem insufficient to explain why it became so widespread in the animal kingdom. These scientists therefore imply that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A) it is more important to understand how widespread prolonged deep sleep is than to understand its function.

B) prolonged deep sleep is likely advantageous in ways that have yet to be discovered.

C) many traits that provide significant benefits for an animal also likely pose risks to that animal.

D) most traits perform functions that are hard to understand from an evolutionary standpoint.

Key	B
Domain	Information and Ideas
Skill	Inferences

Key Explanation: Choice B is the best answer. The passage indicates that although scientists recognize that sleep, which is widespread among animal species, has benefits, some scientists believe that deep, prolonged sleep is so risky from the perspective of animal species' survival and well-being that there must be some so-far- undiscovered advantage(s) to sleep to make it worthwhile from an evolutionary standpoint.

Distractor Explanations: Choice A is incorrect because the passage suggests that the extent of deep, prolonged sleep among animal species is well understood by scientists and that the real question for scientists is why so many animal species engage in deep, prolonged sleep. **Choice C** is incorrect because the passage offers no evidence that any trait other than deep, prolongedsleep poses both benefits and risks for animal species. **Choice D** is incorrect because the passage offers no evidence that any trait other than deep, prolonged sleep has one or more functions that are hard for scientists to understand.