Summarising a Passage

Name: _____ Date: _____

Instructions: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions to help you write a summary in your own words.

The Tuatara: A Living Fossil

The tuatara is one of New Zealand's most remarkable native reptiles. Although it looks like a lizard, it actually belongs to a different order of reptiles that existed over 200 million years ago during the time of the dinosaurs. Today, the tuatara is the only surviving member of this ancient group, which is why scientists call it a "living fossil."

Tuatara are found only in New Zealand, living on small offshore islands where they are protected from predators. They have distinctive features including a spiny crest along their back, a third eye on top of their head (which is covered by skin in adults), and they can live for over 100 years. Unlike most reptiles, tuatara prefer cool temperatures and are most active at night.

Conservation efforts have been crucial for the tuatara's survival. Introduced predators such as rats have threatened their populations, so many tuatara now live on predator-free islands. Breeding programmes and careful monitoring help ensure these unique creatures will continue to thrive for future generations to enjoy and study.

Part A: Identifying Key Points

1. What is the main topic of this passage?

_____

2. List three important facts about the tuatara mentioned in the passage:

a) _____
b) _____
c) _____

3. Why is conservation important for the tuatara?

_____
_____

Part B: Write Your Summary

Using your own words, write a summary of the passage in 3-4 sentences. Include only the most important information.

_____
_____
_____
_____