Discussion questions for Ray Bradbury's "A Sound of Thunder"

Directions: Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

1. What type of Safaris does Time Safari Inc. arrange for their customers?

2. Who is the elected president of the United States at the beginning of the story? How do they describe his opponent? Why is this significant?

3. Describe the path created by Time Safari Inc. What is the purpose of this path?

4. What might happen if someone steps off of the path?

5. Why are the hunters allowed to hunt the dinosaurs that are marked with red paint?

6. What is a paradox? Explain the paradox of time travel (p. 85).

7. What mistake does Eckels make while the men are hunting (p. 88)?

8. What does Eckels have to do as punishment for this mistake?
9. Why can't the men take the dinosaur home as a "trophy?" What are they allowed to do instead? Do they do this?

10. At the end of the story, in what ways is the present day different than before?

11. Besides mud, what does Eckels discover on his boot?

12. What does this story tell us about the human impact of time travel? Do you agree? Explain your opinion.