

1 The Earth, a living planet

1. Find out what a virus is and describe it in your notebook. Are viruses living things? Explain your answer.

2. Among heterotrophic living things, there is a great variety of ways of feeding. How are the heterotrophic organisms classified according to what they eat?

3. Which chemical elements are most abundant in living things?

4. What are the main functions of water in living things?

5. What is the habitat of these living things?
 - a) Lichen
 - b) Camel
 - c) Owl
 - d) Lion
 - e) Coral
 - f) Waterlily
 - g) Mussel
 - h) Grasshopper
 - i) Frog

6. In an aquatic environment, we can talk of salt-water (seas and oceans) and fresh-water (lakes and rivers). What do you think is the difference between the two environments?

7. The ozone layer (O_3) is found between 20,000 and 35,000 metres above the Earth's surface.
 - a) What function does it serve for living things?
 - b) Would life be possible without it?

8. Conditions on land are much more hostile to life than in water. This is mainly due to variations in temperature and lack of humidity. Consequently, living things on land have adapted in different

ways to their environment. Note down some ways in which living things have adapted in order to deal with these problems.

9. There is great uniformity among living things and, at the same time, great biological diversity.

a) Is the above sentence contradictory?

b) Explain how both things can be true at the same time.

10. Write a classification of living things according to their number of cells. Think of an example of each one.

11. There are two systems of classification of living beings: natural and artificial. Find out what they are based on and give an example of each.

12. Aristotle was the first person to attempt a serious classification of animals. Find out what type of classification he used. Do you think it is a natural system of classification? Why?