

TEXT: Life, present and past

The earth and life go together. Every part of land, sea, and air is inhabited by living things. The number of different species of living things is enormous. More than 350 thousand species of plants and 1,120,000 (one million, one hundred and twenty thousand) species of animals are known today.

What is the origin of these many species? Has life always been the same as it is now? To answer these questions, we must turn to fossils and to a knowledge of living organisms and their structure. Only an understanding of living animals can put life in the fragments of bones and shells millions of years old.

The elephant is the largest living land animal. The study of fossils shows that elephants are a recent group in the long history of living things and that early elephants looked like hogs. As geologists trace elephant fossils from older to younger rocks, they piece together the history of elephant evolution: the hog elephant, the Meeritherium (20-40 million years ago), Trilophodone (10-20 million years ago), Mastodon (1 million years ago) and finally African elephant (recently). The species got larger and larger as it evolved. Fossils, bones and teeth reveal the structure of each elephant. By studying these fossils in the light of the anatomy of living elephants, complete reconstruction of extinct elephants can be made with reasonable accuracy. Some unusual occurrences of Mastodon fossils with crude flint weapons prove that these elephants were hunted by our ancestors./.



QUESTIONS (20 points)

I- READING COMPREHENSION (5 points)

A. Multiple choice questions (1 point)

Copy the complete sentence containing the correct answer.

1. There are more thanspecies of plants today.

- a. 1,120,000
- b. 350,000,000
- c. 350,000
- d. 10,000,000.

2. What reveal(s) the structure of each elephant species?

- a. The study of elephants
- b. Younger rocks
- c. Elephant evolution
- d. Fossils, bones and teeth.

B. True / False questions (2 points)

Copy the true sentences and correct the false ones.

1. Life and the earth are similar.
2. Living things are everywhere.
3. There are more species of animals than of plants.
4. We have five species in the history of elephant evolution.

C. Answer the following questions. (2 points)

1. How can we know the origin of species?
2. What is the largest living land animal?

II- LANGUAGE (10 points)

A. Copy down each word from the list on the left with one from the right so as to make pairs of synonyms. (2 points)

A	B
hog	precision
reveal	happening
accuracy	show
occurence	pig

B. Use *can, must or may* to fill the spaces in the following sentences. (2 points)

1. Itrain, you'd better take a coat.
2. As you like species you..... read this book.
3. Park notice: all dogs be kept on leads.
4. A fish.....swim.

C. Copy the dialogue and supply the missing part. (2 points)

Mimi: I want to take you to the zoo but I don't know if you like animals.

Oury:

Mimi: Which one do you like best and why?

Oury:

D. Translate into English (2 points)

Les espèces animales et végétales nous sont très utiles. Nous devons toujours les protéger.

E. Translate into French (2 points)

Every part of land, sea and air is inhabited by living things. The number of different species of living things is enormous.

III- COMPOSITION (5 points)

Choose **one** topic only.

A. People use means to destruct the environment. This is a threat to the extinction of the species of plants and animals.

What do you think can be done to protect the biodiversity?

B. Lassine Fofana, T S Exp LPK - Bamako has had a letter from Susan PLENCHE an English pen-friend, science department, Lancaster University, England. Susan is thinking of visiting Mali. Lassine writes back, encouraging her to come and making suggestions for different things she could do here. He advises her about the best time of year for a holiday in Mali and what clothes to bring.

Write Lassine's letter with the appropriate layout.