

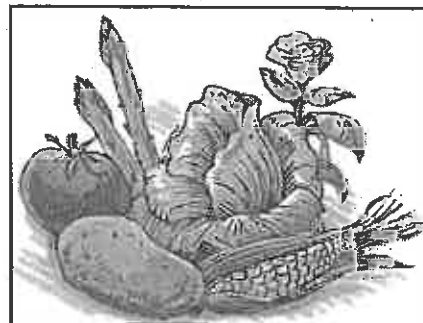
LESSON 3

Read this science article about plants. Then answer questions about the article. Choose the best answer for Numbers 1 to 12.

Plants – a Human Lifeline

Plants grow in almost every part of the world. They grow on mountain tops, in oceans and in many desert and polar regions. You see plants such as flowers, grass and trees nearly every day.

Since people could not live without air or food, there would be no life on the earth without plants. Oxygen in the air we breathe comes from plants, as does much of the food we eat. The seeds of plants such as corn, rice and wheat are the chief sources of food in most parts of the world. We eat bread and many other products made from these three grains.



We eat the roots of plants when we eat beetroot, carrots or sweet potatoes. We eat the leaves of cabbage, lettuce and spinach plants; the stems of asparagus and celery plants; and the flower buds of broccoli and cauliflower plants. The fruits of many plants also provide us with food. They include apples, bananas, berries and oranges, as well as some nuts and vegetables. Coffee and tea also come from plants.

Scientists believe there are over 260,000 kinds of plants on the earth, but no one knows for sure. Some tiny plants that grow on the forest floor can barely be seen. Others tower over people and animals. Among the largest living plants on the earth are the sequoia trees. These giants stand over 80 metres high and nine metres wide.

Many of our most useful medicines are made from plants. Some of these plants have been used as medicines for hundreds of years. More than 400 years ago, for example, some Indian tribes of South America used the bark of the cinchona tree to reduce fever. The bark is still used to make quinine, a drug used to treat malaria. Another drug, called digitalis, is used in treating heart disease. It is made from the dried leaves of the purple foxglove plant. The roots of the Mexican yam are used in producing cortisone, a drug useful in treating arthritis, a disease that causes painful joints.

Plants supply people with many important raw materials. Trees give us timber for building homes and making furniture. Wood chips are used in manufacturing paper and paper products. Plants also provide an important source of fuel. In many parts of the world, people burn wood to heat their homes or to cook their food.

Besides being a source of useful materials, plants add beauty and pleasure to our lives. Most people enjoy the smell of flowers, the sight of a field of waving grain and the quiet within a forest.

Finding Main Idea

1. The first paragraph tells mainly
- Ⓐ why plants are important.
 - Ⓑ where plants are found.
 - Ⓒ how plants provide oxygen.
 - Ⓓ which plants are used for food.

Recognising Cause and Effect

4. What is one reason that the exact number of plants on the earth is not known?
- Ⓐ Some plants are too small to notice.
 - Ⓑ Some plants grow under the ground.
 - Ⓒ Some plants grow in polar regions.
 - Ⓓ Some plants are invisible.

Recalling Facts and Details

2. Which of these foods comes from the root of a plant?
- Ⓐ spinach
 - Ⓑ oranges
 - Ⓒ broccoli
 - Ⓓ beetroot

Comparing and Contrasting

5. In the article, sequoia trees are compared to
- Ⓐ a tower.
 - Ⓑ giants.
 - Ⓒ large plants.
 - Ⓓ a mountain.

Understanding Sequence

3. Which of these happened over 400 years ago?
- Ⓐ Digitalis was used to treat heart disease.
 - Ⓑ The bark of the cinchona tree was used to reduce fever.
 - Ⓒ The Mexican yam was used to treat arthritis.
 - Ⓓ A cure for malaria was first discovered.

Making Predictions

6. Predict what would happen if there were no plants on the earth.
- Ⓐ People could no longer build homes of wood.
 - Ⓑ There would be no fuel to heat homes.
 - Ⓒ All forms of life would die.
 - Ⓓ There would be no food source for animals.

Finding Word Meaning in Context

7. In the article, *tower* means
- Ⓐ 'a large building'.
 - Ⓑ 'to stand very tall'.
 - Ⓒ 'to grow quickly'.
 - Ⓓ 'to be easily seen'.

Identifying Author's Purpose

10. The article was written mainly to
- Ⓐ describe the ways in which plants are used for food.
 - Ⓑ explain the importance of plants to life on the earth.
 - Ⓒ convince readers that plants are more than just a source of beauty.
 - Ⓓ entertain readers with interesting facts about plants.

Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences

8. From the article, you can conclude that
- Ⓐ all medicines come from plants.
 - Ⓑ there are some parts of the world where plants do not grow.
 - Ⓒ most plants are used by people for food.
 - Ⓓ there are more kinds of plants in the world than there are people.

Interpreting Figurative Language

11. Which sentence from the article contains a metaphor?
- Ⓐ It is made from the dried leaves of the purple foxglove plant.
 - Ⓑ Some tiny plants that grow on the forest floor can barely be seen.
 - Ⓒ These giants stand over 80 metres high and nine metres wide.
 - Ⓓ Plants supply people with many important raw materials.

Distinguishing Between Fact and Opinion

9. Which statement expresses an *opinion*?
- Ⓐ The fruits of many plants also provide us with food.
 - Ⓑ Oxygen in the air we breathe comes from plants.
 - Ⓒ You see plants such as flowers, grass and trees nearly every day.
 - Ⓓ Plants add beauty and pleasure to our lives.

Summarising

12. What is a good summary of the article?
- Ⓐ Plants provide us with oxygen and food.
 - Ⓑ Plants can be found almost everywhere on the earth.
 - Ⓒ No one knows for sure how many kinds of plants there are on the earth.
 - Ⓓ Plants provide people with oxygen as well as food, medicine, timber and fuel.