

## Reading Explorer 4: Unit 12 Lesson A    PLANET HUNTERS

Choose the best answer for each question.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Where would the following sentence be best placed?

*Throughout most of history, planets beyond our solar system existed only in theory and science fiction.*

- a. before the second sentence of paragraph A
  - b. after the second sentence of paragraph A
  - c. before the first sentence of paragraph B
  - d. after the first sentence of paragraph B
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. At the time the passage was written, astronomers had discovered more than 3,900 \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. exoplanets  
b. suns  
c. pulsars  
d. floaters
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. How long does a year last on the exoplanet "hot Saturn"?  
a. 24 hours  
b. 3 days  
c. 365 days  
d. 260 years
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. In paragraph C, what does the author mean by *To see a planet as small and dim as ours amid the glare of its star is like trying to see a firefly in a fireworks display*?  
a. Stars are very small.  
b. Stars can look like fireflies.  
c. Stars are difficult to spot.  
d. Stars appear small to us but are actually huge.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. In paragraph F, what can we infer about recording transits?  
a. The use of this method is very expensive.  
b. Astronomers do not like recording transits.  
c. This approach requires a lot of time and patience.  
d. This method of recording transits is the most effective.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. What is NOT mentioned as a method of detecting exoplanets?  
a. taking a picture with a telescope  
b. analyzing starlight  
c. monitoring stars to capture transits  
d. observing known dwarf planets
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Why does the habitable zone of a dwarf star lie closer in?  
a. Because there are so many dwarf stars.  
b. Because rocky planets around dwarf stars tend to be smaller.  
c. Because dwarf stars are dim.  
d. Because dwarf stars exert a stronger gravitational pull.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. According to Jacques Monod, why does life evolve?
- a. Because it is predestined by fate.
  - b. Because it is a result of predictable processes.
  - c. Because it happens in response to crisis.
  - d. Because it is necessary but also accidental.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. According to paragraph N, why did the dinosaurs go extinct?
- a. A volcanic eruption wiped them out.
  - b. A large object collided into Earth.
  - c. There were more predators than prey.
  - d. They died of starvation during the Ice Age.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. In the last sentence of paragraph O, what does *They* refer to?
- a. exoplanets
  - b. pioneers
  - c. other stars
  - d. humans