



Chương VI

PASSAGE 34

Tra ID Để - Tra ID Video

Life beyond Earth

Is there intelligent life on other planets? For years, scientists said "no" or "we don't know". But today this is changing. Seth Shostak and Alexandra Barnett are astronomers. They believe intelligent life exists somewhere in the universe. They also think we will soon contact these beings.

Why do Shostak and Barnett think intelligent life exists on other planets? The first reason is time. Scientists believe the universe is about 12 billion years old. This is too long, say Shostak and Barnett, for only one planet in the entire universe to have an intelligent life. Second - the universe is huge. Tools like the Hubble Telescope "have shown that there are at least 100 billion galaxies," says Shostak. And our galaxy, the Milky Way, has at least 100 billion stars. Some planets circling these stars might be similar to Earth.

Have beings from space already visited Earth? Probably not, says Shostak. The distance between planets is too great. Despite this, intelligent beings might use other methods, such as radio signals. In fact, they may be trying to communicate with US now, but we don't have the right tools to receive their messages. But this is changing, says Shostak. By 2025, we could make contact with other life **forms** in our universe.

Question 1: What is the main purpose of this reading passage?

- A. to show how telescopes work
- B. to explain the beliefs of two scientists
- C. to explain how life started on Earth
- D. to describe what life on other planets might look like

Question 2: What would be a good title for the second paragraph?

- A. The Age and Size of the Universe
- B. Earth: The Only Planet with Intelligent Life
- C. Our Galaxy: The Milky Way
- D. Why Intelligent Life Might Exist

Question 3: Why was it harder to look for intelligent life in the universe in the past?

- A. Planets used to be farther apart.
- B. We did not have the right tools.
- C. We could only see smaller planets from Earth.
- D. These lives might not exist then.

Question 4: According to Shostak, what might prevent beings from space visiting our Earth.

- A. the great distance
- B. the radio signals
- C. the unread messages
- D. our planet size

Question 5: In the last paragraph, what does "**life forms**" refer to?

- A. planets
- B. radio signals
- C. intelligent beings
- D. messages

Question 6: Which of the following adjectives best describes the tone of the writer in this passage?

- A. pessimistic
- B. disbelieving
- C. hopeful
- D. critical

PASSAGE 36

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By 2050, almost 70% of the world's population will live in cities, so we need to think much more carefully about how we plan them.

You don't usually travel as quickly on a bike as you do in a car. But in some cities today, congestion is so bad that you can get from A to B faster on a bike than in a car. We need to have more cycle paths so that people can cycle more safely. We also need better public transport, so that we use our cars far less frequently than we do now. The Seoul metro, for instance, carries more than 7 million people every day.

We need to be much better at saving water and we need to find ways of using it as efficiently as possible. This includes having 'sponge cities', where rainwater is **absorbed** and reused. Lingang, which is part of Shanghai, is a 'sponge city'. The city has permeable pavements that - like a sponge - absorb rainwater. This allows evaporation to reduce temperature during hot weather.

The Colombian city of Medellin has improved the quality of life for the people who live there. To bring people together and **relieve** stress, parks and green spaces were created within the city. In the Parque de los Pies Descalzos (Barefoot Park) for example, people can walk in sand and massage their feet in a foot spa. Medellin now can walk around much more safely than they did 30 years ago.

Question 1: What advantage does cycling have in some congested cities, according to the passage?

- A. Biking is always faster than driving.
- B. Cyclists can park more easily than drivers.
- C. People can travel faster on a bike than in a car.
- D. Biking requires less energy than driving.

Question 2: What does the writer use to give explanations for each point?

- A. definition
- B. symbols
- C. examples
- D. quotes

Question 3: The word "**absorbed**" in paragraph 2 is opposite in meaning to _____.

- A. received B. released C. conserved D. maintain

Question 4: What can be inferred from the passage?

- A. Because of the "sponge", Lingang is cooler than before in the summer.
B. The Seoul metro carries the most passengers in the country.
C. People in Medellin can massage their feet in sand.
D. Medellin used to be a more dangerous city to walk around than it is now.

Question 5: The word "**relieve**" in paragraph 3 is closest in meaning to _____.

- A. reduce B. recycle C. rehearse D. retain

Question 6: What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. City planning should focus on sustainability and improving city life.
B. Many cities will be the center of the economy thanks to the suitable city planning.
C. Cities will become more congested as populations grow.
D. Parks and water are necessary in modern urban areas.

PASSAGE 39

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Step 1: Make your own cleaning products. Doing this will reduce the use of plastics because you are reusing plastic containers to hold the cleaning products.

Step 2: Use cloth bags at the grocery store and for all your grocery needs. If you don't have a cloth bag with you when you are shopping, ask yourself if you need a bag at all.

Step 3: Buy energy-saving devices. They may cost more but you will save money because they use less energy. Replace regular bulbs with **energy-efficient** bulbs. You pay a little more, but the life of the bulb is significantly longer.

Step 4: Set up compost bins. Add fewer things to the landfill sites by composting your kitchen scraps. All plant-derived foods, coffee grounds and tea leaves can be composted. Have small containers in your home to place **them** in. Use this rich fertile soil in the garden.

Step 5: Grow an organic garden. If you don't have the space or time to grow a garden, shop locally and support local farmers.

Step 6: Reduce the use of car travel. Consider using public transportation, walking, and bike riding to get to where you want to go. If you must travel by car, shop for a fuel-efficient vehicle.

Question 1: What can be the best title for the passage?

- A. When to Save World B. How to Make Your Home Safer
C. How to Protect the Earth D. When to Make Your Life Better

Question 2: According to paragraph 1, why should you create your own cleaning products?

- A. Because this can help decrease the number of plastic containers.

- B. Because making your own cleaning products can save you money.
- C. Because your own cleaning products are better for the environment.
- D. Because it will protect your family from harmful cleaning products.

Question 3: What does the word "**energy-efficient**" in paragraph 3 mean?

- A. using little energy
- B. saving almost no energy
- C. wasting much energy
- D. consuming a lot of energy

Question 4: What does the word "**them**" in paragraph 4 refer to?

- A. Compost bins
- B. The landfill sites
- C. Small containers in your home
- D. Plant-derived foods, coffee grounds and tea leaves

Question 5: According to paragraph 4, which of the following can be composted?

- A. Coffee tables
- B. Shoes
- C. Vegetables
- D. Cloth bags

Question 6: According to paragraph 6, what should you do to reduce the use of car travel?

- A. Go on foot.
- B. Travel by air.
- C. Avoid using public transportation.
- D. Buy a powerful vehicle.

PASSAGE 40

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Smog is a combination of smoke and fog. It occurs when gases from burnt fuel mix with fog on the ground. When heat and sunlight get together with these gases, they form **fine**, dangerous particles in the air that our naked eyes cannot see.

Smog occurs in big cities with a lot of traffic. Particularly, in the summertime, when it is very hot, smog stays near the ground. It is dangerous to our breathing, and in smoggy areas, we cannot see very well.

Smog was first discovered in Great Britain in the 19th century, during the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. At that time, people used coal for heating and cooking. Factories also used coal to produce iron and steel. Smoke mixed with wet, foggy air and turned yellow. The smog often hung over cities for many days. **It** caused lung diseases and breathing problem. Thousands of people died in London every year.

Today, cities that have a large population and are located in hot, subtropical areas have the biggest smog problems - for example, Los Angeles, Mexico City and Cairo.

Question 1: Where can smog possibly be found?

- A. At a place where it is rainy
- B. At a place where the traffic is heavy and the weather is foggy
- C. In a city where many people smoke
- D. Underground

Question 2: In the first paragraph, the word "**fine**" is closest in meaning to _____.

A. tiny B. good C. harmful D. shiny

Question 3: What will happen if smog stays close to the ground?

- A. It will disappear in a short time
- B. It will make the sky cleaner.
- C. It will harm our health and block our sight.
- D. It will cause many storms.

Question 4: What probably caused the smog in Britain at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution?

- A. There were too many cars in the country.
- B. The weather there was too foggy.
- C. People smoke a lot at that time.
- D. Factories and people used coal as energy.

Question 5: In the third paragraph, the word "**It**" refers to ____.

- A. iron B. smog C. steel D. smoke

Question 6: According to the author, what kind of cities is facing the most severe smog problems?

- A. Some cities in the United States
- B. Highly populated cities located in subtropical areas
- C. Cities with large-scale industry
- D. Cities which have heavy traffic and a large number of cars

PASSAGE 49

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The Grand Canyon

The Grand Canyon is a large river canyon in Arizona. It is over 220 miles long and over a mile deep in some places. Its widest point is 18 miles wide. The canyon is considered one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World.

Over millions of years, the Colorado River passed through the area. Slowly, the river made its path deeper and deeper. Now, the canyon is surrounded by steep walls on either side, while the river continues to flow at the bottom of the canyon. **Besides its large size, the Grand Canyon is also known for its magnificent colors.** The canyon is made of layers of rock, and each layer of rock has a different depth and color. Geologists have identified almost 40 different layers of rock exposed by the river's erosion.

The climate in the canyon area is primarily deserted, with both high and low temperatures. The air quality is usually very high. Although dust storms and smoke from fires can change the air. The Grand Canyon is home to a variety of plants and animals. Plants range from various species of cactus to pine forests. Many types of animals live in the area, including the bald eagle, bobcats, bats and gila monsters. Six different kinds of rattlesnakes have been **identified** in the area.

Today, the canyon is part of the Grand Canyon National Park. About five million tourists visit the park each year.

Question 1: What caused the formation of the Grand Canyon?

- A. Erosion by the Colorado River over millions of years.
- B. The flood of Colorado River from the past.
- C. Windstorms quickly blow.
- D. Broken rocks forming the canyon walls.

Question 2: Which of the following best describes the climate of the Grand Canyon area?

- A. Tropical and humid
- B. Mild and rainy
- C. Deserted with extreme temperatures
- D. Cold and snowy

Question 3: Based on the passage, which of the following is true about the climate in the Grand Canyon area?

- A. It experiences cold temperatures year-round.
- B. Air quality is usually poor due to frequent storms.
- C. Dust storms can occasionally discontinue the high air quality.
- D. The climate supports a rainforest ecosystem.

Question 4: In the passage, the word **“identified”** is closest in meaning to ____.

- A. confused
- B. created
- C. ignored
- D. discovered

Question 5: Which of the following best paraphrases the underlined sentence?

- A. The Grand Canyon is famous not only for its size but also for its vibrant colors.
- B. Known for its size; the Grand Canyon is less famous for its colors.
- C. The size of the Grand Canyon is more impressive than its colors.
- D. The Grand Canyon is primarily well-known for its large area and not its colors.

Question 6: Which of the following animals does not live in The Grand Canyon?

- A. cactus
- B. gila monsters
- C. bats
- D. bobcats