



UNIT 5 – READING SECTION #1

NAME: _____

DATE: _____



1

Listen and read. **TR: 5.8**



There are about 1.5 million species of animals on Earth, but how many do you see every day? You often see the big colorful animals, like birds, mammals, and fish. But look more closely. Can you see the tiny creatures, too? Eighty percent of the world's species are insects. Look on the ground. Imagine you could look under the ground. Many tiny creatures live there, too. Every cubic foot on Earth has life in it.

David Liittschwager is a photographer. He wanted to find out how many creatures are in one cubic foot. So he made an empty 12-inch cube with a green metal frame and put it in five different places around the world. He chose a tropical rain forest (Costa Rica), a coral reef (Pacific Ocean), the Table Mountain (South Africa), a freshwater river (USA), and a city park (New York). He put the cube in each place for three weeks. He observed, counted, and took photos of everything—down to 1 millimeter in size—that crawled or flew into the cube.

The results were amazing. Liittschwager found both common and rare creatures. He also discovered many new species, like a strange transparent octopus that is the size of a fingernail! In total, more than a thousand different organisms were photographed and studied. Liittschwager said the One Cubic Foot experience was like "finding treasure." Although the coral reef had the most biodiversity, all the other places were also full of life. Even the city park!



transparent
octopus

Ac
Ira



1 foot (ft.) =
12 inches (in.)
0.3048 meters (m)
30.48 centimeters (cm)

Coral reef,
Pacific Ocean, French Polynesia



- 2 **Read and write.** Underline the best title for the text. Write it in the title box.

A Biography of David Liittschwager

Life Is Everywhere

How to Do a "One Cubic Foot" Project



- 3 **Read.** Match each word or phrase with its correct meaning.

1. one cubic foot

2. rare

3. biodiversity

4. species

5. freshwater

6. to observe

a. to watch

b. water that is not salty

c. a kind of animal

d. 12 inches x 12 inches x 12 inches

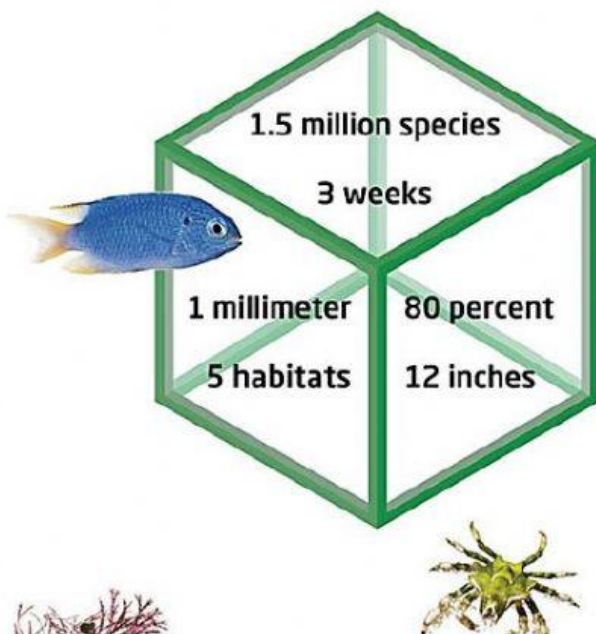
e. the variety of life on Earth

f. not common



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- 4 **Work with a partner.** Read the text again. Ask and answer questions. Use the answers in the cube.



There are more organisms in one tablespoon of soil than there are people on Earth.



How many species in the world are insects?

80 percent.



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