Прочитайте текст. Ответьте на вопросы. Выберите один из предложенных вариантов ответа.

The term «biosphere» was coined (coin — создавать новые слова / выражения) in 1875 by the geologist, Eduard Suess, but it was Vladimir Vernadsky who recognized its ecological importance. He believed that all living organisms together with their environments make up the biosphere. These environments include the air, land, rocks and water. The exact thickness of the biosphere on Earth is difficult to calculate, but most scientists would agree that it is from about 5,000 metres above sea level to around 9,000 metres below sea level. Thus, there is a zone within which life exists.

The biosphere is important because it is all of life. Without the biosphere, Earth would be a lifeless planet like all the others in our solar system. Also, the biosphere could not exist without water. Water is essential for all living organisms on Earth and has played a very important role in the evolution of life on our planet. Life on Earth began approximately 3.5 billion years ago. At that time, Earth was very different from what it is today.

The biosphere is like a ladder. This ladder is known as the food chain, and all life depends on the first step of the ladder which is made up of plants. Animals eat the plants; bigger animals eat the smaller animals, and so on. In this way, all organisms are closely connected to their environment.

The biosphere is what keeps us alive. It gives us our food, water and the air that we breathe. Everything we need in order to grow and survive comes directly from the biosphere, so it is important to protect it. However, humans have had a huge impact on the biosphere. Sometimes this has been good, but at other times it has been very destructive.

Scientists are very concerned about the future, particularly how people will affect the environment. It is very important to try and prevent any permanent damage, or we will destroy ourselves.

32. What makes up the biosphere?

A) living organisms and their environments B) Earth
C) the air, land, rocks and water D) sea level

33. How many kilometers is the zone within which life exists?

A) 5 B) 14 C) 9 D) 12

34. What has played an important role in the evolution of life on Earth?

A) the biosphere B) a ladder C) water D) food

35. What does life depend on?

A) animals B) a ladder C) the food chain D) plants

36. What should humans prevent?

A) the protection of the biosphere B) a destructive impact on the biosphere
C) the air D) everything we need

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