Exercise 1

Read the article about an unusual type of plant called the living stone plant, and then answer the questions.

All about living stone plants



Living stone plants don't really look much like typical plants, but resemble instead small stones lying on the surface of the ground. Their scientific name, Lithops, comes from a word in the language of Ancient Greece meaning 'stone'. These interesting plants are common in the wild in South Africa, but they are sold in garden centres all over the world.

So what does a living stone plant look like? It has two thick leaves in the shape of an oval with a gap between them, which creates the impression of a couple of stones lying closely together. This part of the plant is called the head. The leaves store a large amount of water, which make them potentially useful for a variety of wildlife. A fat layer of outer skin prevents insect attacks, however. Also, the grey or green colour of the leaves helps to emphasise their stone-like appearance, which reduces the chances of them being eaten by small animals.

They are popular houseplants as they grow fairly easily indoors and are quite unusual. Although they sometimes grow in grass in their natural habitat, these tiny plants are generally found in deserts, so it is best to grow them in sandy soil. They are also often found growing naturally on and around different types of rocks, which provide shade for part of the day. It is therefore important to protect the plants from strong sunlight when they are not in their native environment.

The majority of living stone plants use a long root, called a tap root, to reach down into the ground to locate water. There are also some types of living stone plants which don't have a tap root and these plants rely on absorbing mist through their leaves to get the majority of the water they need. Although the tap roots can be up to 15 centimetres in length, the section of plant that is visible generally grows to a height of only two centimetres. It's crucial for home gardeners to use a container of sufficient depth, as most of the plant is located under the ground.

Living stone plants grow incredibly slowly both in the wild and at home, so it is essential to be patient. The good news is that healthy plants can live for up to fifty years. The plants flower annually, producing seeds which, in their natural environment, survive in the ground for months while they wait for suitable growing conditions. As soon as rain begins to fall, new plants start to grow.

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2021

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Question 1

In which country can you find living stone plants growing naturally?

..... [1]

Question 2

What is each plant's pair of leaves known as?

..... [1]

Question 3

How does the thick skin of the leaves protect the plant?

..... [1]

Question 4

What is the main source of water for living stone plants without a long root?

..... [1]

Question 5

How tall is the part of the plant that is above ground?

..... [1]

Question 6

What advice does the writer give to people who want to grow living stone plants?

Give **three** details.

.....

.....

..... [3]

[Total: 8]

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2021

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 2

Read the article about four young people (**A–D**) who enjoy cooking. Then answer Question **7(a)–(i)**.

My hobby: cooking

A Zac

It was my grandmother who got me into cooking. She taught me all the basics, and even told me about some of her favourite old recipes – it was quite funny hearing about the things they used to eat back in her day. She got a lot of pleasure from being able to share this with me. I never imagined I would discover so much about social history – you know, how people's tastes have really changed over the generations. Some of the things that were common back then actually sounded unpleasant, if I'm honest! If you don't happen to have a grandmother with suitable cookery skills, and you want to get into cooking, then food blogs can identify things that are fun to make as well as eat. They can be particularly helpful if you're attempting something a bit tricky or complicated.

B Shelly

The first time you make a new recipe, you'll most likely stick to the instructions pretty exactly and avoid any unnecessary stress. For beginners, after all, even the most basic things can be confusing, with lots of techniques and specialist cooking terms – there's a lot to take in! But once you are more confident, then like me you'll start to discover how easy it is to substitute ingredients, using milder or stronger spices according to taste, for example. There are all sorts of things you can do, and who knows – it might end up being better than the original! Of course, that's not always going to be the case, but when a dish doesn't come together as I'd expected, I've generally found there's still something to be learned from the process. And if not, well, put it down to experience and move on!

C Mustafa

I've been cooking for a while now, and while I enjoy it, I admit to having had quite a few disasters! I'd wrongly assumed that because my dad's a chef, it would be something I'd pick up in no time. But over time I've realised that although being a good cook isn't something you're born with, it is definitely a rewarding skill that can be acquired. The added bonus for me has been getting to try some interesting food along the way. Some of my favourite things to cook are exotic dishes I've had the chance to try elsewhere, and I sometimes look for recipes for those dishes. When I read them, however, I often have the feeling that all the stages involved, or the long list of ingredients, means it's just not practical to have a go myself. Occasionally I do, but even if the end result is something to be proud of, I'm never sure it's worth the hard work, to be honest.

D Becca

I've got a typically busy teenage lifestyle, and most of my day-to-day activities require concentration, or a degree of careful thought. However, when it comes to cooking, it's the repeated actions, especially simple ones like chopping or peeling, that offer me a complete contrast. I have a supermarket near my home, which has whatever I need when I decide to make something special. But of course, being able to create your own original dishes just based on what's available at home – that's something else altogether, and it's what I'm aiming to be able to do. One of my favourite recipes is for an unusual sweet-and-sour salad I tried on a family holiday in Thailand. I make it quite regularly, and then it's like I'm back in a beach-side café, in the sun – perfect!

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2021

LIVEWORKSHEETS

For each statement, write the correct letter A, B, C or D on the line.

Question 7

Which person gives the following information?

(a) the idea that attempting complex-looking recipes is too much effort ..... [1]

(b) a recommendation for a good source of inspiration ..... [1]

(c) a description of the effect on the writer of eating a certain dish ..... [1]

(d) a suggestion of how to adapt a recipe to individual preferences ..... [1]

(e) an understanding that made the writer enjoy cooking more ..... [1]

(f) the wish to be able to cook without having to follow recipes ..... [1]

(g) some advice about how to benefit from a negative situation ..... [1]

(h) something unexpected the writer learned from some recipes ..... [1]

(i) the idea that the writer finds the process of cooking relaxing ..... [1]

[Total: 9]

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2021

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 4

Read the blog written by someone who studies wildlife in cities, and then answer the questions.

Urban ecology

by Josh Taylor

I work as an 'urban ecologist', which involves studying how wildlife is affected by rapid, widespread urban development. This knowledge is used to advise planners on how to develop our cities in a way that allows wildlife to exist alongside the human population. It's perhaps not something you've heard of; after all, urban areas are the last places most people connect with animal conservation. That's certainly the impression I regularly get from those I speak to, at any rate. So I'm always happy to talk to anyone who shows an interest in the species that share our parks and public spaces. The variety of wildlife that can be found on our doorsteps is amazing!

Unlike many conservationists or ecologists, I've always felt comfortable in urban environments. Growing up in the suburbs meant my friends and I got to know every part of our city. Of equal importance to me, however, was having access to the extensive woods just a bike ride from my neighbourhood. My parents often took me there so I could burn off some energy and have the freedom to explore. As I got older, having easy access to these quite different environments helped inspire me when I was thinking about my future. Then I found a college that offered an urban ecology degree course and it seemed like the perfect combination. My decision was made!

I thoroughly enjoyed my course, and am lucky to have been involved in a range of interesting projects ever since – working with giraffes in Tanzania, or urban populations of butterflies in the United States, for example. But it's also the colleagues on any project who make it special. Many I've worked with have made important contributions to the world of animal conservation. Some are even experts whose research findings were covered in my degree textbooks! When I started my first project, as you might expect, I was constantly seeking second opinions, but the encouragement I received means I now trust my own judgement. And that's important if I'm going to be valued by other members of the team.

I'm now at the stage where I run my own projects, but that hasn't always been the case. In fact, like many graduates, I started out by taking on the role of technician, doing the routine and less interesting parts of project work. Having a fairly low salary is a bit of a disadvantage, but it gives you great opportunities for improving the techniques you've been taught. Before too long, you'll be in a position to start taking on more responsibility. In the beginning though, you'll do things like data entry, and checking and setting up equipment, which almost everyone's bound to have done already.

26

I love my job, but I appreciate that it might not be for everyone. For instance, every project is a new puzzle, with a ton of information to collect and read, often on paper. And it's important – you could well be looking at ways to protect a species that might otherwise be threatened by a new construction project, for example. And some things can't be rushed, despite the pressure you could be under from a building company, for example, or even a local authority. Some of the resources we have include satellite images and pretty advanced IT packages, but the majority of the work can only be done by someone outside, often standing around in all weathers. But for me, that's fine. Spending the day stuck in an office in front of a computer, on the other hand – now that's what I'd call a nightmare!

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2021

LIVEWORKSHEETS

For each question, choose the correct answer, A, B or C, and put a tick (✓) in the appropriate box.

Question 10

How do people usually react when Josh explains his job to them?

A They are unaware that such a career exists. ☐

B They seem unsure that the occupation is worthwhile. ☐

C They are keen to share their own experiences of city wildlife. ☐

[1]

Question 11

What does Josh say influenced his choice of career?

A his early adventures with his friends ☐

B his family's love of the natural world ☐

C the location of his childhood home ☐

[1]

Question 12

In paragraph 3, Josh mentions some colleagues to demonstrate how

A they were happy to share knowledge with him. ☐

B they helped him to gain some confidence. ☐

C they worked together well as part of a group. ☐

[1]

Question 13

What does 'it' refer to in line 26?

A taking on the role of technician ☐

B having a fairly low salary ☐

C improving the techniques you've been taught ☐

[1]

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2021

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Question 14

Josh suggests that his job suits

A people who have a lot of patience. ☐

B people who enjoy being physically active. ☐

C people who prefer working with technology. ☐

[1]

Question 15

What was Josh's main reason for writing this blog?

A to educate people about the different wildlife in our cities ☐

B to offer an account of his personal experiences ☐

C to encourage involvement in conservation projects ☐

[1]

[Total: 6]

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2021

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 5

Question 16



You recently bought an item online. There was a problem with it.

Write an email to a friend about the problem.

In your email you should:

- explain why you bought the item
- describe the problem with the item
- say what you are going to do about it.

Write about 120 to 160 words.

You will receive up to 6 marks for the content of your email, and up to 9 marks for the language used.

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2021

LIVEWORKSHEETS

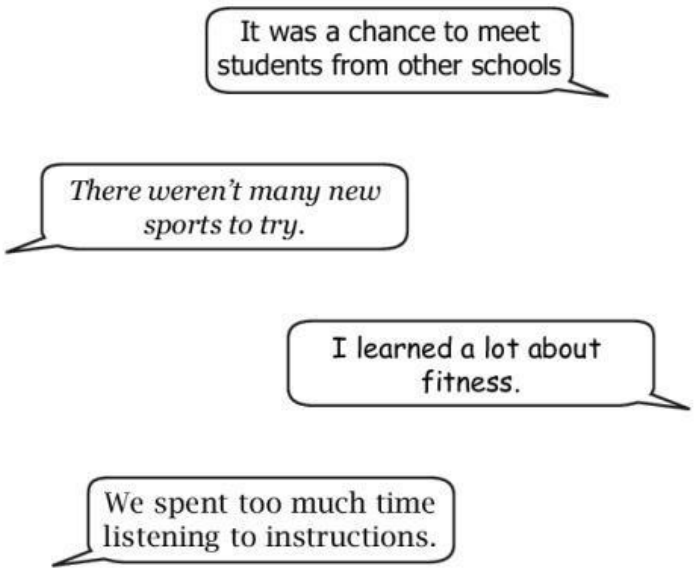
Exercise 6

Question 17

Your class recently took part in a one-day sports festival for local schools. The organisers want students' opinions about the sports festival, and you have been asked to write a report.

In your report, say what was enjoyable about the sports festival, and suggest how it could be improved.

Here are some comments from students in your class:



Now write a report for the organisers of the sports festival.

The comments above may give you some ideas, and you should also use some ideas of your own.

Write about 120 to 160 words.

You will receive up to 6 marks for the content of your report and up to 9 marks for the language used.

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2021

LIVEWORKSHEETS