

Directed Reading B

Section: Asking About Life (pp. 8–11)

1. What is the first step in a scientific investigation?

2. The study of living things is called _____.

STARTING WITH A QUESTION

3. The existence of single-celled algae, giant redwood trees, and 40-ton whales

illustrates the amazing _____ of life.

4. What is one question you could ask about any living thing?

INVESTIGATION: THE SEARCH FOR ANSWERS

5. After you ask a question, what is your next step?

6. What is the only kind of information scientists use?

Match the correct description with the correct term. Write the letter in the space provided.

_____ 7. looking at the birds that visit your
bird feeder

_____ 8. searching for an answer on the
World Wide Web

_____ 9. doing a test to find out the hardness of
a mineral

a. experimentation

b. observation

c. research

Directed Reading B *continued*

WHY ASK QUESTIONS?

- _____ **10.** Why do scientists conduct investigations?
a. so scientists can argue
b. to give scientists something to do
c. because the answers to scientific investigations affect all living things
d. because the answers to scientific investigations are permanent
- _____ **11.** Finding a cure for polio and learning more about AIDS are two ways in which scientists
a. fight diseases. **c.** get rid of water pollution.
b. preserve food so it lasts longer. **d.** find new sources of food.
- _____ **12.** Some life scientists do experiments to find out if they can
a. build a faster airplane.
b. discover a new planet.
c. make plants grow faster or larger.
d. perfect a car fueled by hydrogen.
- _____ **13.** Besides diseases and food sources, what is another thing that life scientists investigate?
a. rocks and minerals **c.** computer science
b. the sun **d.** environmental problems
- 14.** What is a major cause of many environmental problems?

- 15.** Why should we try to decrease pollution?

- 16.** What are two examples of the way the actions of humans harm some living things?

- 17.** How do scientists hope to develop plans that will ensure the survival of endangered species?

