

How did life first start on our Earth. Scientists have had to look back on the oldest records of this planet; the rocks themselves to try and answer this question. We know that scientists can measure the radioactivity of many rocks to discover their age. The oldest rocks which have been found anywhere are about 4.5 billion years old. But the oldest ones that show any slight traces of living things are less than 2 billion years old. For about 2.5 billion years, then, the surface of the earth must have been completely lifeless. There were no fish in the oceans and no green plants on the ground. That time the earth's atmosphere contained ammonia and a few other gases as well as water vapor and hydrogen but there was no oxygen or carbon dioxide. What was the first living thing like? Probably rather weak and insignificant by modern standards. But the first species of life had the ability to keep on growing and reproducing itself so it must have spread quite rapidly through out on the oceans. It had no competition and there was a world full of ready-made molecules to use as food. When these first primitive cells had eaten up most of the molecules as available food they would have started to compete with each other for survival. Finally, a few cells built up special molecules which were able to trap the energy of sunlight. It was the first plant cells who used the energy of sunlight to run their tiny chemical motors. These cells must have spread rapidly because they no longer needed to find their food and so were even better equipped to survive. Other kinds of cells developed which could live only on the molecule of food produced by the plants. The simplest for these first animal cells to do was to eat the plant cells. The next great step in this evolutionary process single cells was these cells attaching permanently to each other. Each cell must have been able to do everything for itself; move, feed and reproduce. But when the cells began to live together in colonies they began to specialize. We see this particularly well in our own bodies. We are made up of skin cells, blood cells, liver cells and many other kinds of cell. Each kind with its own structure has a special job to do. (397 words)

Beginning of life on Earth

Radioactivity of rocks can tell us about the beginning of life on Earth. These rocks are around 4.5 billion years old, but the rocks which show the existence of life are around 2 billion years old. It means that for the remaining years, there was no living thing, and gases needed for survival. However, the first specie on Earth had the ability of reproduction. They had sufficient molecular food for existence. But, when they ate up all of these foods, they were left to compete with ~~each other~~ each other. Resultantly, plants developed special ~~cells~~ ^{cells} to attract sunlight for food. While the animals had to eat these cells in order to exist. However, the process of specialization happens when cells live in colonies. It is the same process that exist in human body.

Total Words: 397

Precis Words: 133

Q2. Here is an excerpt from the autobiography of a short story writer. Read it carefully and answer the questions that follow.

My father loved all instruments that would instruct and fascinate. His place to keep things was the drawer in the 'library table' where lying on top of his folder map was a telescope with brass extensions, to find the moon and the Big Dipper after supper in our front yard, and to keep appointments with eclipses. In the back of the drawer you could find a magnifying glass, a kaleidoscope and a gyroscope kept in black buckram box, which he would set dancing for us on a string pulled tight. He had also supplied himself with an assortment of puzzles composed of metal rings and intersecting links and keys chained together, impossible for the rest of us, however, patiently shown, to take apart, he had an almost childlike love of the ingenious. In time, a barometer was added to our dining room wall, but we didn't really need it. My father had the country boy's accurate knowledge of the weather and its skies. He went out and stood on our front steps first thing in the morning and took a good look at it and a sniff. He was a pretty good weather prophet. He told us children what to do if we were lost in a strange country. 'Look for where the sky is brightest along the horizon,' he said. 'That reflects the nearest river. Strike out for a river and you will find habitation'. Eventualities were much on his mind. In his care for us children he cautioned us to take measures against such things as being struck by lightning. He drew us all away from the windows during the severe electrical storms that are common where we live. My mother stood apart, scoffing at caution as a character failing. So I developed a strong meteorological sensibility. In years ahead when I wrote stories, atmosphere took its influential role from the start. Commotion in the weather and the inner feelings aroused by such a hovering disturbance emerged connected in dramatic form.

Questions

- a. why did the writer's father spend time studying the skies ? (3)
- b. why the writer thinks that there was no need of a barometer? (3)
- c. what does the bright horizon meant for the writer's father ? (3)
- d. How did her father influence the writer in her later years ? (3)
- e. explain the underlined words and phrases in the passage. (8)

Rewritten

Passage Comprehension 2025

Answer No : 1

The writer's father spent time on studying the sky because he was an astronomer. He had different kind of tools, such as magnifying glass, kaleidoscope, gnomon, telescope and metal rings. He also had a great kind of love for studying sky and its patterns.

Answer No 2:

There was no need of a barometer because the writer's father had a good knowledge ~~and sky~~ weather and sky. However, there was a barometer in their house, but with no usage. It is because her father acted as a prophet of weather and sky.

Answer No: 3

The writer's father conceived bright horizons as a tool that guide people toward right direction. He also considered it as a tool that would not leave a person to be lost. He was also of the view that bright horizon would lead people toward nearest river, and eventually ~~that~~ would help to find habitation.

Answer No 4 The writer was influenced by her father because he taught them about astronomical factors. He also guided them about precautionary measures to be taken when a light strikes. As a result, the writer developed strong knowledge of meteorological factors from her father, which influenced her the most in the ~~last~~ ^{later} years of his father.