

TASK 1
ANIMALS INSPIRE SCIENTISTS

ANSWER BOX									
QUESTIONS	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
ANSWERS	C	B	A	A	C	C	B	C	C

TEXT

There are a lot of reasons to go out in nature to look around. **It makes us feel calmer and happier (0).** It can help us care more about the plants and animals around us. It shows us how our world is put together.

For some scientists, looking at the natural world gives them ideas that can improve our environment, our health, the way we grow food and much more. **They study bees to figure out how tiny robots might “talk” to one another as they monitor our air (1).** The way a pitcher plant traps bugs shows them how to capture pests in a farm field.

“There are so many fun and unique and interesting ways” that animals have evolved “to solve problems, and some of these solutions are ones humans never thought of” (2), says Lisa Manning, the director of the BioInspired Institute at Syracuse University in New York. It is one of many research organizations around the world where scientists get inspiration for inventions from other living things.

Scientists at the BioInspired Institute study fruit flies to understand how their brains process information and honeybees to help prevent bleeding in patients (3). Zhenyu Gan is a mechanical and aerospace engineer at Syracuse. **He makes robots, in particular, robots with two or four legs, as opposed to robots with wheels or tracks (4).** Legged robots would be useless if they could not stand or walk. To figure out how they should operate, Gan looks to animals such as horses and tiny hopping rodents called jerboas. **“The first thing we have to understand is the fundamental differences” among the movements of these animals, Gan says (5).**

Robots inspired by humans are usually kind of clumsy, partly because humans have “bulky” legs compared to some other animals, says Gan. But we also have to constantly control our legs to keep ourselves from falling over. That uses a lot of energy. **A horse has four legs to give them more stability. The bulkiness of their legs is also closer to their torsos, making them faster and more efficient (6).**

There are lots of solutions to problems that humans have come up with without looking at nature. **“They work, and they are simpler,” says Manning of the BioInspired Institute. “But they are not as robust” (7)** as bioinspired inventions, “and they can’t handle changes to the environment, as well as animal solutions can.”

Question 8: General context. The text’s main focus is on how scientists are observing nature in order to develop solutions to different problems. Although the text mentions options A and B, these aren’t the main ideas the author is writing about.

(Adapted from: washingtonpost.com/kidspost/2023/01/25/animals-inspire-scientists-solve-problems-that-humans-face, 25/01/2023, 393 words)

TASK 2

'ECO-MERMAID' SWIMS MARATHON TO FIGHT PLASTIC POLLUTION

ANSWER BOX

GAP	0	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
SENTENCE	K	L	I	J	H	D	F	B	G	E

DISTRACTORS: A, C

TEXT

Ms. Liivand was born in Estonia. As a child, she had health problems, and began swimming to help her lungs get stronger. **She was soon taking part in open water swimming contests, sometimes even in icy water (0).** In 2017 and 2019, she represented Estonia at the World Aquatics Championships.

Eleven years ago, Ms. Liivand moved to Miami, Florida, where she continued swimming in the ocean. In one training session, she nearly wound up swallowing some plastic that was floating in the sea. **That experience made her think of all the sea animals (9)** who faced similar pollution every day. She decided she wanted to work to make people more aware of plastic pollution, which she calls a "plastic pandemic".

Thinking about sea creatures gave her the idea of swimming like one. **She began swimming with a special single swimming fin (10)** attached to both of her feet. This rubbery "monofin" ('mono' means 'one') allows her to swim by kicking both of her legs together. "Swimming with the monofin without using my arms is similar to how dolphins and marine animals swim," says Ms. Liivand. **She believes that swimming with a monofin "sends a bigger message" (11).** Ms. Liivand first set the world record for swimming with a monofin in 2019, when she swam 6.2 miles (10 kilometers) off the coast of California. In 2020, she broke the record again by swimming 12.8 miles (20.6 kilometers), this time in Miami, Florida.

Last year, she set a new Guinness World Record by swimming 18.6 miles (30 kilometers), again in Florida. Even though it took her 9 hours and 19 minutes to set that record, **Ms. Liivand says she knew she could go farther (12).**

On May 7, Ms. Liivand broke the record once more, this time swimming the length of a full marathon (which is normally a running race). **It took her 11 hours and 54 seconds (13)** to swim 26.2 miles (42.2 kilometers).

So, for the last year, **Ms. Liivand has been getting up at 4 in the morning every day (14)**, putting on her monofin, and going swimming. To help improve her strength, she sometimes even towed other people in the water.

The water was rough, and she ran into a few problems, but she didn't stop. "I got stung by jellyfish," she said, **"And kept telling myself that it was not the time to cry" (15).**

To keep her energy up, a friend followed her in a kayak and gave her food and water from time to time. Along the way, **Ms. Liivand picked up all the trash she found (16)** and put it in the kayak. By the end of her marathon, the kayak held three bags full of trash.

"At the end of the day," she says, "This isn't just about a record. **It's about helping the community and the world" (17).**

(Adapted from: newsforkids.net/articles/2022/06/16/eco-mermaid-swims-marathon-to-fight-plastic-pollution/, 16/06/2022, 510 words)

TASK 3
FRANCE MONEY-SAVING TIPS

ANSWER BOX

PARAGRAPH	0	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
STATEMENT	E	C	H	D	A	G	J	K	B

DISTRACTORS: F, I

TEXT

E. It's not necessary to visit everything

0. You don't have to go inside every building and pay an entrance fee each time. In most French cities, just walking around, you'll see everything you need.

C. Good sights at no cost

18. Take advantage of free stuff too. **There are tons of places you can visit for free in France**, like gardens, most churches, festivals, public museums on the first Sunday of each month... Always check the tourism office's website for the city you're going to visit.

H. Pick a place to eat with help from residents

19. Restaurants in touristy areas are often overpriced and sometimes not even that good. **Try to find restaurants locals go to**, outside of super touristy areas, especially in Paris.

D. If you're happy, give a little extra

20. It's not common in France to tip, most French people don't. The waiting staff is paid a full salary, so tipping is not mandatory, but **it's always nice to leave something if you're satisfied with the service**. Apart from restaurants, tipping is really not customary in France.

A. Avoid ordering unnecessary things

21. While eating at restaurants, order the free water ("Une carafe d'eau s'il-vous-plaît"), you don't really need to pay for mineral water. **Drinks are usually a huge chunk of your food budget and can quickly add up**.

G. Lower costs by buying and preparing your own food

22. If you're able to cook where you're staying, **shopping at markets and supermarkets is a cheaper alternative to restaurants**. Supermarkets would be cheaper than markets, but the food quality would usually be better at the market, especially for things such as cheese or deli. At the market, you can buy directly from the producer (not always though), and find gourmet food you wouldn't find at the super.

J. Save by choosing the best time to go

23. **Traveling during low-season can be a game-changer budget-wise** and also a perfect way to visit places without hordes of tourists. In general, avoid public holidays or big events. High and low season can vary depending on where you go in France.

K. Unfamiliar areas may be a better option

24. **There are tons of beautiful cities and places in France that are often overlooked by international tourists**. They are just as beautiful as the most popular French destinations, and **they're usually way more budget-friendly**.

B. Expect higher prices in major tourist cities

25. Everything in Paris is way more expensive than in the rest of France. **The more tourists there are, the pricier the food, transportation, and attractions**.

(Adapted from: juliearoundtheglobe.com/travel-france-budget-tips, 19/08/2020, 402 words)