

LIFESPANS

1. Do you know the expression *lifespan* (or *life span*)? The following collocations of the word *span* can help you:

within the span of two decades
 wingspan
 span of hands, arms, wings, aircraft, bridge, responsibility
 a bridge spanning the river
 his interests span almost everything

2. Name one species with the longest lifespan and one with the shortest lifespan.

3. Order the following species according to their lifespans.

sequoia
 moth
 mouse
 bat
 shrew
 deep-sea clam
 bowhead whale
 mayfly

4. How long do different organisms live. Have a guess. Match them with their particular lifespans.

3000 years	sequoia
220 years	moths
200 years	mice
38 years	bats
couple of years	shrews
2 years	deep-sea clams
a few months	bowhead whales
2 hours - 14 days	mayflies

5. What factors affect lifespans? Why do different organisms have different lifespans?

6. Read part A of the text.

- a. Underline the key words.
 b. Try to create a hypothesis. Later, when reading the text, you will have the opportunity to compare your ideas with those presented by the scientists.

- c. Find the synonyms for *very old*
longevity

7. In the text various theories are mentioned. One of them is called ‘rate of living’ theory.
- Read **part B1** and formulate the theory in one sentence.
 - Find the synonyms for *pace*
slow
8. There are some exceptions to the theory in question.
- Read **Part B2** and then hypothesize why birds and bats can live longer than other animals of their size.
 - Listen to the recording (*timing 16-17:24*) and fill in the information on birds, bats and shrews in the grid. Compare the answer with your partner.
 - Listen to the following extract on bats (*timing 19:45-21:40*) and decide whether the statements are true or false.
 - Bats are not mammals. T/F
 - The longevities of bats are three times higher than longevities of mammals that don’t fly. T/F
 - Hibernation over the winter is the main reason why bats live longer. T/F
 - Tropical bats species don’t live so long. T/F
9. Read part C on evolutionary theories of ageing and prepare questions for your partner. Swap the information.
10. Listen to the (*timing 13:48-16:00*) (mayfly, mouse, mole) and complete the information into the grid.
- To check your answers read **part D**
 - In this part find the synonym for *terrestrial*
11. The last listening activity will help you finish the grid. (clams, porcupines, termites, tigers, lions, humans). (*timing 22:15*)
12. Are there any common features between the theories mentioned in the text and your hypotheses?

13. Humans live four times longer than animals of their size.

- a. What is the reason?

- b. Read **part E** to find the answer.

- c. Find the antonym to *communal* life.

14. Translate

délka života
rychlý metabolismus
pomalý metabolismus
schopnost létat
suchozemští živočichové
vodní živočichové
uniknout dravcům
communal life

This is the oldest species.

pinus aristata var. longaeva



<http://www.championtreeproject.org/>

<http://www.conifers.org/pi/pin/longaeva.htm>