

life and death in the history of the Earth

mysterious death / worksheet for the guided programme accompanying the exhibition Death in the New Building of the National Museum for junior high schools

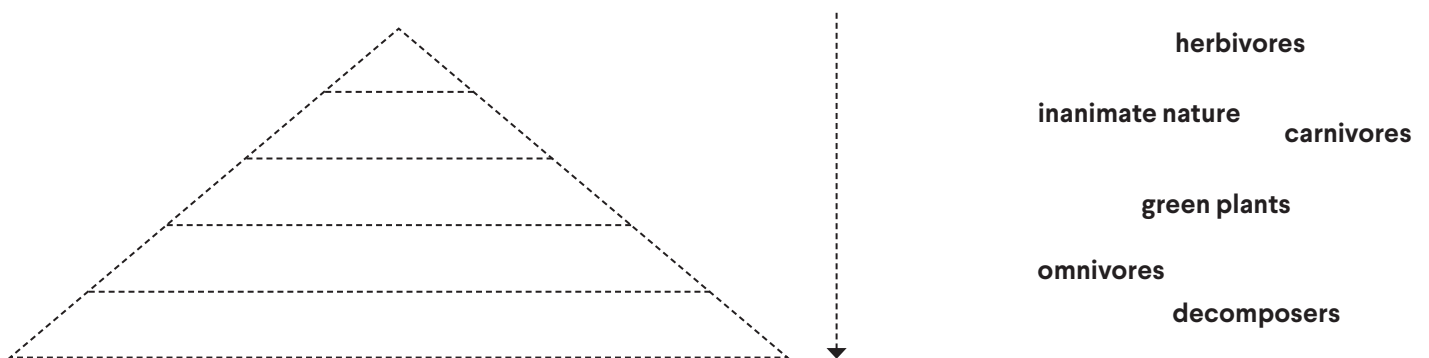
1. Describe the cycle of life and how it is different in the lives of people and animals.

life of animals	life of people

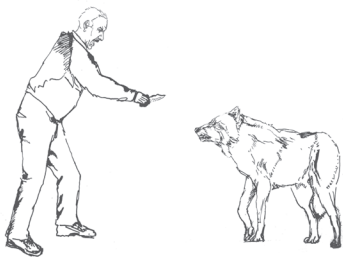
2. Sort the animal species into two groups – extinct in the past and endangered at present.

organisms endangered at present			organisms extinct in the past		
mammoth	Neanderthal man	ammonite	polar bear		
stegosaur	dodo	rhinoceros	edible frog	wildcat	giant panda

3. Add these terms to the ecological pyramid and explain which of them are on the top of the food chain.



4. Where would you put the man in this pyramid? In your opinion, is the man standing on the top? Is the man a predator? Or a prey? Circle the correct option and fill in the gaps in the sentence.



The man IS / IS NOT / IS and IS NOT a predator, because:

.....

.....

FIND THE EXHIBIT!

.....

burying and funeral rites

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” Out of all creatures only people bury their dead. “

5. When did people start burying their dead? And what were their reasons? Mention the facts.

WHEN?

.....

WHY?

.....

6. Fill in the gaps in the following text!

In (period) the funeral rites were one of the most important parts of social life. Together with the body or ashes people used to inter,,, into the grave as well. Above the rich graves people used to build up in some periods. We can learn about all this thanks to research.

7. Match the objects in the pictures to the right terms and say what they were used for.

A) medallion B) cross C) rosary



← []

.....



← []

.....



← []

.....

8. Find three most significant art and technology features of the funeral textile the guide has shown you and draw a quick draft of the reconstruction of the whole garment the textile was used for.

draft

significant features

FIND THE EXHIBIT!



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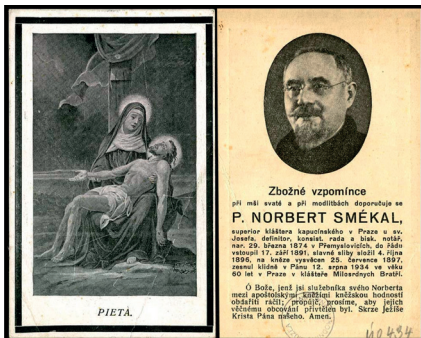
dealing with death

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9. Match the characteristic features of the graves of ancient civilisations related to their ideas of afterlife to the particular areas.

- | | |
|---|---|
| carriage and horse | Germans |
| depiction of happy and heroic scenes | inhabitants of Central Europe in the Iron Age |
| painted vases with the scenes of waiting for the underworld | ancient Romans |
| ceramics with the window for the soul | ancient Greeks |

10. Try to find objects in the exhibition that are similar to the one in this picture. Fill in the empty spaces around the picture.



What is the object?

What is depicted on it?

What was the object used for?

Why was it made?


What is the story it tells?

11. Decide if the following statements are true or false. Correct the false ones.

statement	true	false
Testaments enable people to decide about their property after their death.		
We do not have any finds of testaments that would be older than from the 19 th century.		
The requiem masses for the dead were celebrated from the Modern Age.		
Jews bury their dead separately from Christians.		
Muslims bury their dead on their right side, facing Mecca.		
The funerals of celebrities and prominent personalities did not differ from normal funerals.		

12. Decide who from the saints mentioned below does not belong to the patron saints of grave diggers. Cross the name out and mention briefly when the others lived.

- | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| St. Barbara | St. Callixtus I | St. Anthony the Abbot | St. John of Nepomuk | St. Joseph of Arimathea |
| ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |

FIND THE EXHIBIT! →  →

solve the mystery of life and death!

- a) Thanks to the death of ancient creatures we can learn about their .
- b) The science dealing with the organisms in the past geological periods of the Earth is called .
- c) Which animal is said to have the shortest life? .
- d) What is the name of the science that deals with (apart from other things) the way people were buried thousands years ago? .
- e) The way of burying when the remains of the dead were burnt and then buried underground is called .
- f) Jewellery, crown jewels and funeral textiles used to be common in the royal .
- g) Apart from the archaeological sources, also the inform us about the relationship of a man to death since the Early Middle Ages.
- h) In a number of cultures people tried to provide "life after life", i.e. for their dead by performing the funeral rites.
- i) What are the names of various vessels into which the dead are interred? The clues are that the first used to be common in Ancient Egypt and the other is still used in our country nowadays. and .
- j) The catholic mass for the dead is called .
- k) The traditional language of these masses has been since the Middle Ages.
- l) The rules of Jewish funeral rites are included in the Torah, also called the Law of .
- m) It is prohibited to burn the dead within the religion called .
- n) The last will is also called the , and the rules are nowadays stated in the code.
- o) The place where it is nowadays possible to scatter the ashes of the dead is called a for scattering.
- p) Many of the natural catastrophes that bring death are caused by the , such as water, fire and gale.
- q) Cremation is a way of the dead and it was legally permitted in our country in 1919.