



# TAXONOMY TRIVIA



WRITTEN BY  
THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL TEAM



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# WHAT IS THE MOUNTAIN LION MOST CLOSELY RELATED TO?

- A. TIGER    B. HOUSE CAT    C. DOG    D. LION

A mountain lion, otherwise known as a cougar, is not really a lion at all, but instead is more closely related to the **HOUSE CAT**. Mountain lions (cougars) purr and meow like other small cats, even though they are deadly hunters.



## AS A MEAT EATER, A RAVEN IS IN THE SAME ORDER AS A HAWK.

- A. TRUE    B. FALSE

**FALSE.** The raven, though it mostly eats meat, is actually the largest member of the Passeriformes order, or perching birds. With a wingspan of over 1.3 m (4 ft), the raven is an intelligent bird, able to kill animals as large as young sheep. Ravens have even learned how to lead wolves to their prey, giving these birds the advantage of knowing where to scavenge what is left of the kill later on. These beautiful birds can make a variety of vocalizations.





# WHAT IS THE LARGEST MARINE ANIMAL THAT EATS PLANTS?

- A. DOLPHIN    B. BLUE WHALE  
C. MANATEE    D. SEAL

**MANATEES** are constantly eating while awake. Average-sized manatees tip the scales at around 544 kg (1,200 lb)! They devour around 10% of their body weight in grass each day, making them the largest vegetarians in the sea. Due to their vast consumption of food, manatees continue growing even as adults.

# WHICH UNUSUAL TREE IS NAMED AFTER A FICTIONAL ANIMAL BUT LOOKS LIKE AN UMBRELLA?

- A. ELEPHANT EAR    B. DRAGON'S BLOOD TREE  
C. DOGWOOD TREE    D. CATNIP



The **DRAGON'S BLOOD TREE** is only found on the island of Socotra in the Indian Ocean. The tree is named for its sap, known as "dragon's blood," which is a deep red color even after it has dried into resin. Its shape looks very much like an umbrella, with a densely packed canopy that acts as a shade and prevents evaporation of the little amount of rain it receives every year.

# WHICH OF THESE LITTLE PLANTS IN THE AIZOACEAE FAMILY SURVIVES BY PRETENDING TO BE A ROCK?

- A. FAIRY ELEPHANT'S FEET    B. CARPET OF STARS  
C. LITHOPS    D. CHILEAN SEA FIG

**LITHOPS** are small two-leafed plants native to southern Africa and are commonly called "living stones." They grow to only 2.5–5 cm (1–2 in) wide and stay flush to the ground. They can be incredibly difficult to find in their natural habitat because they look like small rocks. There are at least 37 species of this unique little plant that come in a variety of colors, including brown, pink, orange, green, and gray. Many have a small white, yellow, or pale orange daisy-like flower that blooms during early winter.



# THE PENGUIN IS THE ONLY BIRD THAT CAN SWIM UNDERWATER.

A. TRUE    B. FALSE



**FALSE.** There are actually a few birds that can swim underwater! Two outstanding examples are the American dipper and the cormorant. American dippers can not only “fly” underwater, but they can also walk on the bottoms of swiftly moving streams! They are also North America’s only aquatic songbird. The cormorant will float in the water with only part of its neck and bill out of the water. When it spots a tasty meal, it will dive and swim underwater, propelling itself with both its feet and its wings!

# HIPPOTAMUSES LIVE IN A HABITAT THAT CONTAINS DIVERSE SPECIES OF ANIMALS. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ANIMALS IS THE HIPPO NOT RELATED TO?

- A. GIRAFFE    B. ANTELOPE  
C. ELEPHANT    D. WARTHOG

**ELEPHANT.** Hippos are classified in the order Artiodactyla, more commonly called ungulates, which means that they are hoofed animals with an even number of functional toes. Giraffes, antelope, and warthogs all belong to this same order. The elephant is classified into the Proboscidae order because of its “proboscis,” or trunk.



# WHICH OF THESE COMMON FOODS IS ACTUALLY MADE FROM BACTERIA?

- A. BANANA    B. YOGURT  
C. CHICKEN NUGGET    D. ROMAINE LETTUCE



That cup of **YOGURT** you ate this morning was actually made with bacteria! Yogurt is made with probiotics (live microorganisms) which can provide protection for your bones and teeth and can help prevent digestive problems. However, many kinds of yogurts have been through a process called pasteurization, which is a heat treatment that kills the beneficial bacteria that were part of the starter culture. To ensure you are receiving the good bacteria found in yogurt, look for products that contain live, active cultures, which should be written on the label.

# POTATO AND TOMATO DON'T JUST RHYME: THEY'RE RELATED SCIENTIFICALLY!

- A. TRUE  
B. FALSE

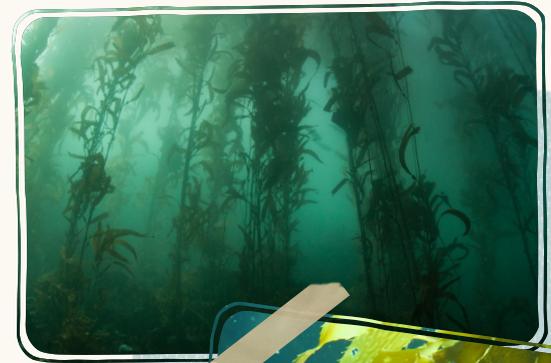
**TRUE.** Both potato and tomato are members of the Solanaceae, or nightshade, family of flowering plants. This family also contains eggplants, peppers, and other plants that are important in the production of medicines.



# WHICH IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE PLANTAE KINGDOM?

- A. MOSSES      B. FERNS  
C. GIANT KELP      D. FLOWERING PLANTS

That's right! Even though it resembles a tall grass, **GIANT KELP** (and other types of seaweed) is not a plant—it's actually a type of algae, which belongs to the Protista kingdom. When people think of the word algae, they often think of slimy green growth on the surface of ponds and lakes and by the ocean shore. Until fairly recently, many scientists even believed that algae were plants!



# SOME TYPES OF PLANTS ARE CARNIVORES.

- A. TRUE      B. FALSE

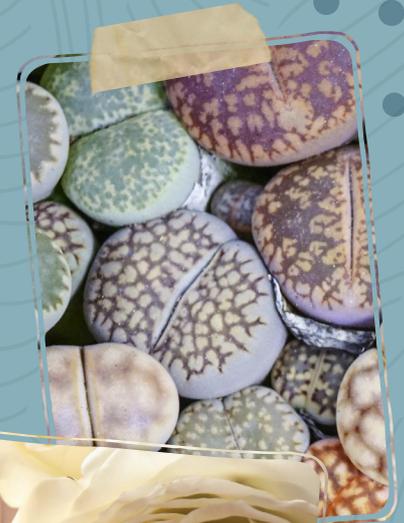
**TRUE.** When we think of how plants grow, we usually think of soil, water, and sunlight. But, there are some plants that are carnivores, or meat eaters, and they grow by eating insects, crustaceans, and other small animals! Throughout the world there are over 600 species of carnivorous plants, including the well-known Venus flytrap. Carnivorous plants have special leaves and other parts that act as traps and allow them to capture their prey.



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THE WORLD IS FILLED WITH CARNIVOROUS  
PLANTS, FASCINATING MAMMALS, AND  
MUCH MORE!

In this colorful book, you will find that taxonomy, the classification of organisms, is complex and involves more than meets the eye. Through fascinating trivia that is both fun and engaging, you will learn about the classification of familiar and unique plants and animals, even some you may have never heard of.



ORIGINAL PUBLICATION



THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

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ISBN 978-1-952920-68-4  
\$6.99  
50699 >



9 781952 920684

SKU 758.2