



Mutated tribe develops 'sea nomad gene', gains ability to swim to ocean depths

Description

The Bajau tribe of Indonesia has made history as the first humans known to have genetically adapted to diving. Living an amphibious life along the coasts of Indonesia for over a millennium, the Bajau people have been found to have a genetic makeup that allows them to thrive in the sea.

Spending a significant portion of their lives in the water, the tribe resides in houseboats and excels in free diving and spearfishing. With exceptional lung capacities and strong swimming abilities, they can dive up to depths of 230 feet using only weights and wooden goggles.

Researchers have discovered a unique genetic mutation, known as the 'sea nomad gene,' in the Bajau people that enhances their diving capabilities. The gene results in larger spleens, which play a crucial role in the human dive response. When submerged in water, the spleen contracts to increase the oxygen supply in the bloodstream by up to nine percent, giving the Bajau people a genetic advantage in swimming underwater.

Despite their remarkable abilities, the Bajau people face threats to their traditional way of life. Nomadic in nature, they struggle to obtain citizenship, and commercial fishing has significantly impacted their food supply.

In a world where their unique genetic adaptation is celebrated, the Bajau tribe continues to face challenges that jeopardize their ancestral lifestyle. Their story serves as a reminder of the delicate balance between genetic resilience and external threats in the changing world of today.

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Vocabulary List:

1. **Genetically** // (adverb): Relating to genes or genetics.
2. **Amphibious** // (adjective): Relating to living in or suited for both land and water.
3. **Thrive** // (verb): To grow, develop, or be successful.
4. **Spearfishing** // (noun): Hunting fish using a spear.
5. **Mutations** // (noun): Changes or alterations in genes or DNA.
6. **Nomadic** // (adjective): Wandering from place to place having no fixed home.

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which type of animals can live both on land and in water?
Option: A. Fish
Option: B. Birds
Option: C. Amphibians
Option: D. Reptiles
2. What do you call an organism that benefits from another organism without affecting it?
Option: A. Parasite
Option: B. Predator
Option: C. Commensal
Option: D. Host
3. Which type of cancer affects the skin cells that produce pigment?
Option: A. Melanoma
Option: B. Leukemia
Option: C. Lymphoma
Option: D. Sarcoma
4. What is the term used to describe people who move from place to place rather than settling in one location?
Option: A. Nomadic



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- Option: B. Sedentary
Option: C. Urban
Option: D. Agricultural
5. Which term refers to the ability of a product to produce a desired or intended result?
- Option: A. Utility
Option: B. Efficacy
Option: C. Potency
Option: D. Resilience
6. What term describes something innovative or pioneering?
- Option: A. Standard
Option: B. Traditional
Option: C. Groundbreaking
Option: D. Conventional
7. Which healthcare professional specializes in restoring movement and function?
- Option: A. Dentist
Option: B. Surgeon
Option: C. Physiotherapist
Option: D. Psychiatrist
8. In epidemiology what term is used to describe the frequency of new cases of a disease within a specified period?
- Option: A. Prevalence
Option: B. Mortality
Option: C. Incidence
Option: D. Chronicity
9. Which term represents a state of growing vigorously or being successful?
- Option: A. Declining
Option: B. Stagnant
Option: C. Thriving
Option: D. Floundering
10. Which medical professional specializes in diagnosing and treating skin disorders?
- Option: A. Cardiologist
Option: B. Gynecologist
Option: C. Dermatologist
Option: D. Neurologist



Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. _____ birth is when a baby is born before 37 weeks of pregnancy.
12. Patients with psoriasis may experience skin _____ during stressful periods.
13. The new drug has shown to be extremely _____ in treating the illness.
14. The research study found _____ errors in the data analysis that had to be corrected.
15. Performance-enhancing substances are _____ in professional sports.
16. The _____ of diabetes has been steadily increasing in the population over the past decade.
17. The _____ of flu cases usually rises during the winter months.
18. Dr. Smith is an _____ figure in the field of astronomy known for groundbreaking research.
19. Some diseases are linked to _____ inherited mutations.
20. The newly opened restaurant is _____ despite the competitive market.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The genetic variations that result in differing characteristics within a population.
22. A method of fishing using a sharp implement to catch fish underwater.
23. Accurate and exact in measurement or amount.
24. An organism that benefits from a relationship with another without causing harm or benefit.
25. The stage of testing a drug before clinical trials in humans.
26. Places where services like massages beauty treatments and hair styling are offered.



27. Having great depth or seriousness showing intellectual depth.
28. The frequency of occurrence of new cases of a disease in a specific population over a period of time.
29. Having great power influence or effect.
30. A medical professional who specializes in diagnosing and treating skin disorders.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. C. Amphibians 2. C. Commensal 3. A. Melanoma 4. A. Nomadic 5. B. Efficacy
6. C. Groundbreaking 7. C. Physiotherapist 8. C. Incidence 9. C. Thriving 10. C. Dermatologist

Gap-Fill: 11. Premature 12. Flare-ups 13. Potent 14. Numerous 15. Banned 16. Prevalence 17. Incidence
18. Esteemed 19. Genetically 20. Thriving

Matching sentence: 1. Mutations 2. Spearfishing 3. Precise 4. Commensal 5. Preclinical 6. Parlours 7. Profound
8. Incidence 9. Potent 10. Dermatologist

CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL6

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