# Take Away English 随身英语 29 October 2012

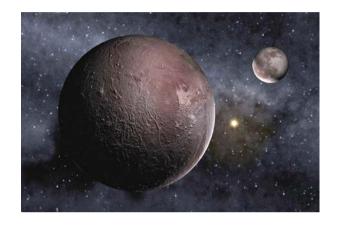


# Crowded universe? 在其它星球上的生命

Vocabulary: science 词汇: 科学

We might not be alone in the universe. Actually, it may be confirmed as a very crowded place by new **computer models** developed to help identify **habitable** planets.

Estimates of places that can **sustain** life have been based on the **likelihood** of them having **surface** water. But software recently developed by the Aberdeen University allows researchers to identify planets with **underground** water kept liquid by planetary heat.



Water is **fundamental** for life and planets too close to the sun lose water to the **atmosphere** through **evaporation**. **On the other hand**, planets located in distant reaches from their star have their surface water **locked away** as ice.

Sean McMahon, who is carrying out the work, explained: "Traditionally people have said that if a planet is in this **Goldilocks zone** – not too hot and not too cold - then it can have liquid water on its surface and be habitable."

But this perception might change when considering that planets can receive two sources of heat - heat direct from the star and heat generated deep inside the planet.

It is easy to observe it in our own planet. As you **descend** through the **crust of the Earth**, the temperature gets higher and higher. Even when the surface is frozen, water can exist below ground.

There could be immense quantities of water in fact - teeming with primitive life.

Professor John Parnell, also from Aberdeen University said: "There is a significant **habitat** for **microorganisms** below the surface of the Earth, extending down several kilometres."

"And some believe that the bulk of life on Earth could even reside in this deep biosphere."

So the Aberdeen team are developing models to predict which **far-flung** planets might **harbour** underground **reservoirs** of liquid water with the possibility of alien life.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

### Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

- 1. What sign suggests to scientists that a planet can sustain life?
- 2. Where might the heat in a planet come from?
- 3. Is the following statement true, false or not given? Even at high temperatures there is plenty of life deep below the surface of the Earth.
- 4. What phrasal verb in the article means to put something in a place from where it cannot be removed easily?
- 5. What word is used to refer to beings that are very small?

### Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

H4 = 1   1   0				
1. My town is grown with newcomers.	wing fast. There are new	buildings everywhere and t	the streets are	
descending	teeming	harbouring	teaming	
2. Ann looks tired. She's been working in a shoe shop ten hours a day. On the other, she's been earning a lot of money and might be able to retire soon.				
foot	finger	side	hand	
3. We can't say how much metal lies in the Earth's, the more we seek the more we find.				
shell	peel	crust	habitat	
4. Nowadays, it doesn't matter if you live in a city or a remote village. You can make friends in all theflung corners of the Earth.				
far	long	big	deep	
5. Smoking is a bad habit. It increases the of cancer.				
livelihood	likelihood	neighbourhood	Robin Hood	
·				

#### Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

#### Quiz 小测验

- 1. What sign suggests to scientists that a planet can sustain life? The existence of water.
- 2. Where might the heat in a planet come from? The heat can come directly from its star or be generated deep inside the planet.
- 3. Is the following statement true, false or not given? Even at high temperatures there is plenty of life deep below the surface of the Earth. True.
- 4. What phrasal verb in the article means to put something in a place from where it cannot be removed easily? To lock away.
- 5. What word is used to refer to beings that are very small? Microorganisms.

#### Exercise 练习

- 1. My town is growing fast. There are new buildings everywhere and the streets are <u>teeming</u> with newcomers.
- 2. Ann looks tired. She's been working in a shoe shop ten hours a day. On the other <u>hand</u>, she's been earning a lot of money and might be able to retire soon.
- 3. We can't say how much metal lies in the Earth's <u>crust</u>, the more we seek the more we find.
- 4. Nowadays, it doesn't matter if you live in a city or a remote village. You can make friends in all the <u>far</u>-flung corners of the Earth.
- 5. Smoking is a bad habit. It increases the likelihood of cancer.

## Glossary 词汇表

computer model	计算机模型
habitable	可居住的
to sustain	维持
likelihood	可能性
surface	地表
underground	地下
fundamental	基本的
atmosphere	大气层
evaporation	蒸发,挥发
on the other hand	另一方面
locked away	锁了起来
Goldilocks zone	宜居带,可居住地区
to descend	向下
crust of the Earth	地球的地壳
to teem	充满
habitat	生存环境
microorganism	微生物
biosphere	生物圏
far-flung	遥远的
to harbour	隐藏
reservoir	水库