

## 問題【英語】

中学英語で最先端の科学を語る！地球最強の生物！  
以下の英文を読み、設問に答えましょう。

If you hear the word “the strongest animal on earth”, what do you imagine? Lion or elephant? Not at all. But, this animal can live at the place of  $-272^{\circ}\text{C}$  and at a very hot place of  $150^{\circ}\text{C}$  and can live without water for more than one year.

This animal's name is Tardigrade or water bear.

It's very small and smaller than 0.5mm. The most important thing is to be able to live without



water for a long time. In one example, it could live without water for 120 years. Man can live only three days without water.

Why is it possible? Scientists found that there is sugar inside the body. When water bear is put in difficult conditions, it starts to sleep, doesn't use energy but creates sugar.

Because water bear has this sugar, it can live without water for a long time.

Now, scientists are testing to use this sugar.

If we can use it, we can carry blood and vaccine to very far places at the room temperature. Now, a lot of people are waiting for blood and vaccine in battlefields and in Africa. So, water bear and its sugar have possibility to change the medical world and can save many people.

※注 ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ =度 (degrees Celsius)、Tardigrade=クマムシ、sugar=糖、room temperature=室温、vaccine=ワクチン、battlefield=戦場、passage=文章)

問 1 What is the strongest animal in the passage?

問 2 Why can water bear live without water for a long time?

問 3 Where are people waiting for blood and vaccine?

## 豆知識 雑学コラム

## 英語で発信、表現

21世紀は、情報科学と生物学の世紀だと言われていますが、地球最強の生物クマムシについて書いてみました。クマムシ、英語だとTardigradeまたはwater bearは、トレハロースという糖を持っているために長期間休眠でき、その間、水分がない・超低温・高温・放射線が含まれる環境でも生きることができます。この糖を医学の分野で活用できたら、血やワクチンを凍らせずに室温で長期間保存でき、戦場や遠い場所に運ぶことができ、多くの人の命を救うことができます。

上記の内容を、注の単語を除いて中学校の単語、文法を使い表現してみました。今は、英語で国境を越えて身の周りのことや、世の中で起きていることを表現し、発信できる時代です。

## 【解答】

問 1 It's Tardigrade / It's water bear.  
問 2 Because there is sugar inside the body.  
問 3 In battlefields and in Africa.