Quiz/Test # 3

Variety of Life

**Terms/Definitions**

**Microorganisms**: are living things you cannot see without a microscope. They come is many different shapes, sizes and varieties. They can work alone or in colonies.

**Autotrophic**: can make their own food

**Heterotrophic:** depend on other living organisms for food

**Extinct:** a species that no longer exists anywhere.

**Extirpated:** a species no longer existing in the wild in one area but occurring elsewhere in the world.

**Endangered:** a species that is close to extinction throughout all or a large portion of a specific area.

**Threatened:** a species likely to become endangered if the factors affecting it are not reversed.

**Vulnerable:** a species particularly at risk because of low or declining numbers, or some other reason, but   
not a threatened species.

**Short Answer**

**What is a fossil?**

Fossils are preserved remains of living things. Most are formed when living things die and are buried quickly by sediment before it's eaten, decomposed or weathered.

**Where do microorganisms live?**

No climate is too hot or too cold for micro-organisms and no place is too wet or too dry. They can live anywhere.

**What is an extremophile?**

These extremophiles have been known to survive for a prolonged time in a vacuum, and can also be resistant to radiation, which means they also might be able to survive in space.

**What do microorganisms eat?**

They can make their own food from sunlight, just like plants. Also like plants, they give off oxygen. Other bacteria absorb food from the material they live on or in.

**How do microorganism move?**

Some have whip-like appendages called flagella used to ‘swim’ around. Others produce thick coats of slime and ‘glide’ about. Some stick out thin, rigid spikes called fimbriae to help hold them to surfaces. Some have hair like appendages that are called cillia.