1. 90% of children diagnosed with leukemia survive these days. This is thanks mainly due to anticancer chemical compounds called vincristine from a popular garden plant. Name this shrubby plant useful for treatment of Leukemia, Hodgkin’s lymphomas, Kaposi’s sarcoma and cancers of brain, bladder, testes, breast and lungs.
   (a) Rosy periwinkle  (b) Aloe Vera  
   (c) Daffodil  (d) Forget me not

2. Known for the treatment of sunburn, minor burns, cuts, skin irritations. This popular house plant grown on the window sills around the world has an ancient pedigree as skin balm dating back more than 6000 years.
   (a) Opuntia  (b) Aloe Vera  
   (c) Petunia  (d) Neem

3. The heart drug digoxin for the treatment of congestive heart failure is extracted from this plant. Recent report states that men who take digoxin for 10 years or longer are at 46% lower risk of prostate cancer.
   (a) Lavender  (b) Kudzu  
   (c) Foxglove  (d) Tea tree

4. The bulb of this plant contains high levels of galantamine which helps brain cells communicate with each other. Also known as Jonquille or Lent lily, this plant is a promising new source of drug for the treatment of Alzheimer’s.
   (a) Flax  (b) Khella  
   (c) Ephedra  (d) Daffodil

5. The root of this plant has been the ancient Eastern health elixir having a great reputation for boosting vitality and memory. Name this plant which is considered to be the best-selling twenty-first century botanical.
   (a) Evening primrose  (b) Eyebright  
   (c) Hoodia  (d) Ginseng

6. Which other name is given to Rauwolfia serpentina also known as sarpagandha, a herb that has been used in Indian Ayurvedic medicine for centuries to treat snakebites, insect stings, insomnia? The world’s first breakthrough high-blood pressure medication called serpina in the 1930s was originally derived from this plant.
   (a) Butterbur  (b) Curare  
   (c) Snakeroot  (d) Castor Bean

7. The compound called podophyllotoxin is used to make etoposide, a drug that is used alone to treat cancer. What other common name is given to this rare herb?
   (a) Chinese happy tree  (b) Mayapple  
   (c) Feverfew  (d) Red clover
8. This primitive vertebrate is becoming a promising source of new medicines to treat a huge range of serious infections while avoiding the problems of antibiotic resistance. An extract of the serum (white blood cells) of this animal kills a staggering 23 different strains of bacteria including the yeast Candida albicans, one of the main micro-organisms responsible for infections in diabetics, HIV patients and organ transplant recipients.

(a) American Alligator  
(b) Gharial  
(c) Komodo lizards  
(d) Southern copperhead

9. This animal is better understood for spreading diseases rather than curing them. However a recent finding is that of antibacterial compounds in its brain which is said to be effective against many notoriously difficult to combat deadly strains of bacteria.

(a) Cockroaches  
(b) Woodlice  
(c) Booklice  
(d) Thrips

10. This colorless animal belongs to jellyfish species which surprisingly produces a faint ring of glowing green specks around its outer edge. This animal has provided researchers with one of the most revolutionary laboratory tools of the twenty-first century called green fluorescent protein (GFP).

(a) Crystal Jelly  
(b) Water Jelly  
(c) Comb Jelly  
(d) Sea Jelly

11. This nocturnal predator snail is slow moving. This animal is responsible for the development of the world’s most powerful painkillers. It is also called the cigarette snail.

(a) Dall’s Cone  
(b) Magician Cone  
(c) Geography Cone  
(d) Textile cone

12. This animal hunts at night and by day it roosts in dark places such as caves and disused buildings. A compound in its saliva keeps blood flowing. It has been harnessed to develop a new anticoagulant drug for dissolving dangerous blood clots.

(a) Dracula  
(b) Fruit Bat  
(c) Flying fox  
(d) Vampire Bat

Answers:

1) a: American and Canadian doctors took notice of this plant during World War II, when soldiers stationed in the Philippines used periwinkle to treat diabetes during insulin shortages.

2) b: The gel inside the Aloe Vera leaves speeds healing of the damaged skin possibly by improving circulation and encouraging new skin cells to move up into the areas that need repairs.

3) c: Dr. William Withering, after treating more than hundred patients (156 exactly), he concluded that small amounts of the dried leaf of foxglove eased dropsy without causing toxic side effects.

4) d: Galantamine is known to improve memory and thinking skills in people with mild to moderate dementia.

5) d: Ginseng is one of the world’s most sought-after herbs according to the World Health Organisation.

6) c: Thanks to its calming effect the herb is also used in mental disorders. In 1940, a pioneering Indian cardiologist named Rustom Jal Vakil published the first research documenting snakeroot’s effects in people.

7) b: The rhizome of the plant contains a resin, which can be processed to extract podophyllotoxin, or podophyllin, a neurotoxin.

8) a: American Alligator can survive massive injuries that would kill many other species. Researchers are of the opinion that a particular peptide or fragments of proteins must be lurking in the WBCs of alligator blood.

9) a: It is possible and makes good sense that chemical defences would allow such animals such as cockroaches which live in dirty places without becoming infected themselves.

10) b: Water jelly has been used to show how cancer cells spread and how neurons in the brain develop and to investigate the behavior of the AIDS virus.

11) c: Conus geographus also called geography cone because of detailed map-like patterns on its shell. Also called cigarette snail because when a person is stung by one, he is said to have just enough time to smoke a cigarette before dying from its venom.

12) d: The common vampire bat is found in the tropics of Mexico, Central America, and South America.