

```

def count(biosphere,row,column):
    # Write your solution here
    count = 0
    r = (row-1)
    while (r <= (row+1)):
        c = (column-1)
        while (c <= (column+1)):
            if (biosphere[r][c] == LIFE):
                count = count + 1
            c = c + 1
        r = r + 1
    if (biosphere[row][column] == LIFE): # Don't count yourself
        count = count - 1
    return(count)

```

An acceptable alternative solution would employ 8 IF-branches instead of nested loops