



Year 5 English – Reading - Comprehension, Informative Text – Home Learning, Week B

Week B – Reading - Comprehension

Learning Intention:

Students will:

- ✦ ***Read for information and comprehension, a number of informative texts and answer related questions***

Monday –

The Moon – Read the text and then answer the pages following

Tuesday –

Extreme Environment – Read the text and then answer the pages following

Wednesday –

Frolicking for Fossils – Read the text and then answer the pages following

Thursday –

Formation of the Earth – Read the text and then answer the pages following

Friday –

History of Halloween – Read the text and then answer the pages following

THE MOON

of Planet Earth

Our Magical Moon

If you gaze up into the sky on a clear night, you will see an illuminated object around 384 400 kilometres away from you! This is the moon of our planet, Earth. If you had to drive there, it would take 153 days of non-stop driving at a speed of 100 kilometres per hour! So what is our moon made from? How did it get there? And why does its appearance seem to change from night to night?

What Is the Moon?

The moon is a satellite of planet Earth. A satellite is an object that orbits (moves around) a planet. The moon's path around Earth is a slightly squashed circle shape called an 'ellipse'.

What Size Is the Moon?

Like Earth, the moon is a sphere. However, the moon is a much smaller sphere than Earth. In fact, the moon is about four times smaller than Earth.

Moons are always smaller than the planet they orbit. The surface area of the moon is about 38 million square kilometres. This is less than the surface area of the continent of Asia on Earth!

What Is the Moon Made From?

The moon is made from rock. It has mountains, craters, and flat planes called 'seas' made of hardened lava on its surface. Scientists believe that the moon was probably created around 4.5 billion years ago when a large object hit Earth. The impact blasted rocks out into space, which eventually came together to orbit around Earth. They melted together, cooled down and became the moon.

How Does the Moon Move?

Like Earth, the moon moves in two distinct ways. Firstly, the moon spins on its axis. This is called a 'rotation'. While the moon is rotating, it is also orbiting (moving around) Earth. This is



called a 'revolution'. It takes about the same amount of time (27.3 days) for the moon to rotate as it does for it to complete its orbit around Earth. This means we only ever see about 60% of the moon's surface from Earth! The part of the moon that faces Earth is known as the 'near side'. The part that we never see is known as the 'far side'.

Why Does the Appearance of the Moon Keep Changing?

Have you noticed how the moon appears to change shape each night? Although the moon shines brightly in the night sky, it doesn't produce its own light. We see the moon because it reflects light from the sun. As the moon orbits Earth, the sun lights up different parts of its surface. These different views are known as the 'phases of the moon'. Around once per month (every 29.53 days to be exact) the phases of the moon make a complete cycle.

One Giant Leap for Mankind

For centuries, humans have been fascinated by the mysterious moon in our night sky. Some of these mysteries were finally answered on 20 July 1969. Three American astronauts, Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins, landed their lunar module on the surface of the moon. Neil Armstrong was the first human being to walk on the surface of the moon. His historic words, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" are still quoted regularly to this day.



Castleski/Shutterstock.com

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Moon of Planet Earth

After reading the text, complete the '3, 2, 1' table below.

3 things I learnt about the moon from reading this article are...	2 things I found interesting about the moon from this article are...	1 question I still have about the moon after reading this article is...
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	
3.		

Use a book or the Internet to research your question. Record the information you discover in your own words on the lines below.



EXTREME ENVIRONMENTS

WHAT IS A TUNDRA?

A tundra is a vast, frozen plain in the coldest regions of the world. Tundras are commonly located north of the Arctic Circle, or above the timberline on high mountains. Tundras can be found across Russia, Canada, Antarctica, Scandinavia and the United States of America.

WHAT IS THE CLIMATE LIKE IN A TUNDRA?

A tundra is usually very cold. Depending on the time of year, tundras can be covered with varying amounts of snow. The annual rainfall, fog and melted snow in a tundra is between approximately 150 and 250 millilitres per year. The temperature in a tundra can change dramatically between summer and winter. During summer, the average temperature is 12°C. In winter, the temperature can dip below -30°C!

WHAT FLORA AND FAUNA SURVIVE IN A TUNDRA?

In a tundra environment, the ground is consistently alternating between freezing and thawing. This cycle affects the types of plants that can grow and survive there. The range of vegetation includes mosses, lichens, heath, herbs and small shrubs.

Although the climate is very cold, a tundra can provide a habitat for many animals. These animals have special adaptations that allow them to survive the extreme temperatures and conditions. Some animals that live in a tundra include Arctic foxes, lemmings, snowy owls, caribous, bears and harlequin ducks.

WHAT IS A DESERT?

Deserts are large, extremely dry areas of land with sparse vegetation. Deserts are commonly located near the Tropic of Cancer or the Tropic of Capricorn. Some countries around the world with expansive desert environments include Australia, Libya, Mexico and China.

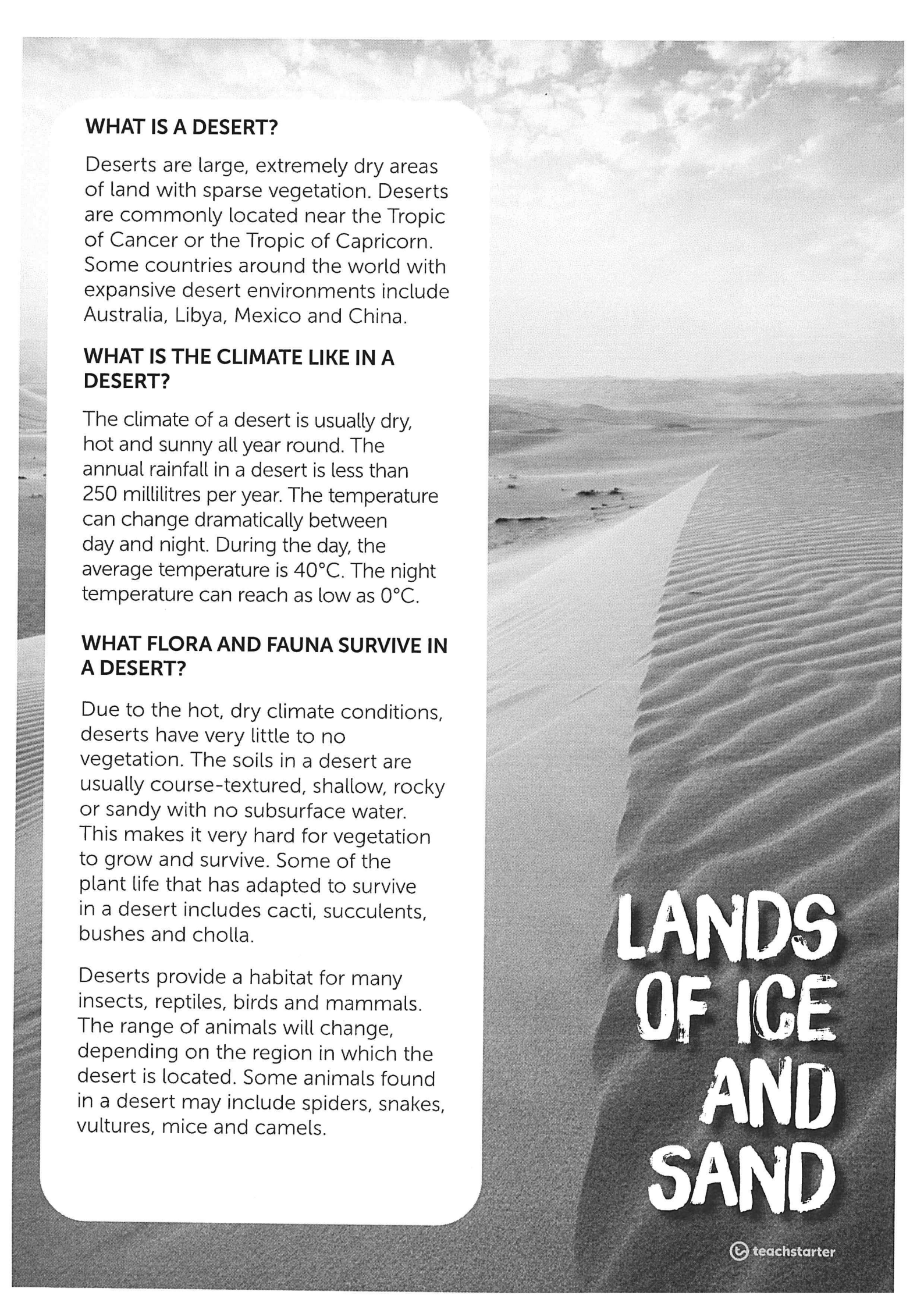
WHAT IS THE CLIMATE LIKE IN A DESERT?

The climate of a desert is usually dry, hot and sunny all year round. The annual rainfall in a desert is less than 250 millilitres per year. The temperature can change dramatically between day and night. During the day, the average temperature is 40°C. The night temperature can reach as low as 0°C.

WHAT FLORA AND FAUNA SURVIVE IN A DESERT?

Due to the hot, dry climate conditions, deserts have very little to no vegetation. The soils in a desert are usually coarse-textured, shallow, rocky or sandy with no subsurface water. This makes it very hard for vegetation to grow and survive. Some of the plant life that has adapted to survive in a desert includes cacti, succulents, bushes and cholla.

Deserts provide a habitat for many insects, reptiles, birds and mammals. The range of animals will change, depending on the region in which the desert is located. Some animals found in a desert may include spiders, snakes, vultures, mice and camels.



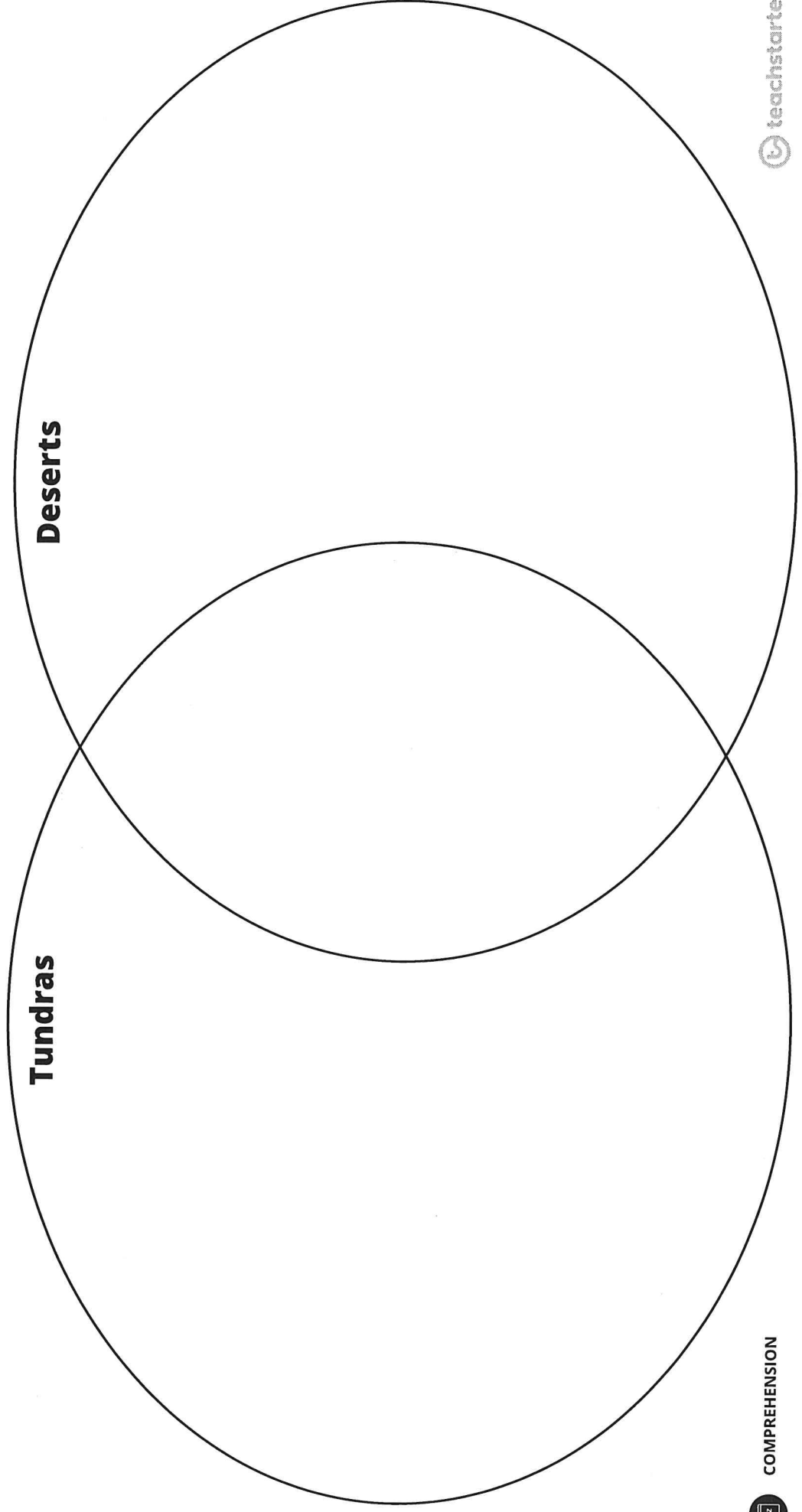
LANDS OF ICE AND SAND

Name: _____ Date: _____

Extreme Environments: Lands of Ice and Sand

Complete the Venn diagram below to compare the extreme environments of tundras and deserts.

Use the information in the text to add facts to the circles. You could also use a device to conduct some further research of your own.





Fossicking for

FOSSILS

What Is a Fossil?

Fossils are the remains of ancient organisms that have been naturally preserved. From leaf imprints and seashells to skeletons or even animal tracks – so many things can become a fossil.

Fossil Facts

The word 'fossil' comes from the Latin word 'fossus', which means 'dug up'.

There are two types of fossils found in the world:

- **Body fossils** – These are fossils made up from once-living organisms, such as plants or animals. Usually only the hard parts of animals, such as teeth, bones and shells, become fossilised. But sometimes you may be lucky enough to find feathers, fur or skin!
- **Trace fossils** – These fossils give us signs of life from long ago. They include animal tracks, burrows, eggs, nests and leaf impressions.

How Are Fossils Formed?

When a living thing or trace element is buried, it is protected from the environment and scavengers. Over time, the soft parts of the organism usually decay away to leave the hard bones, teeth or shell. Fossils are then formed when layers of sediment, such as clay, mud, silt or sand, build up on top of the buried organism. Once buried, minerals fill in the gaps in the organisms – basically turning them into stone!

This process takes a minimum of 10 000 years and needs the right combination of sedimentary rocks and minerals to occur. These fossilised organisms are then discovered when the rock is unearthed by erosion or an excavation.

Did You Know?

Fossils can also form when spaces are left behind, such as footprints or burrows. The space is then filled with minerals and sediment.

Where Are Fossils Usually Found?

As fossils need particular sediment and minerals to be created, they are usually found in or near bodies of water such as swamps, lakes and oceans.

You may be wondering how people then find fossils out in the middle of the desert! Many of these special places were once under water millions of years ago.

Fossil Facts

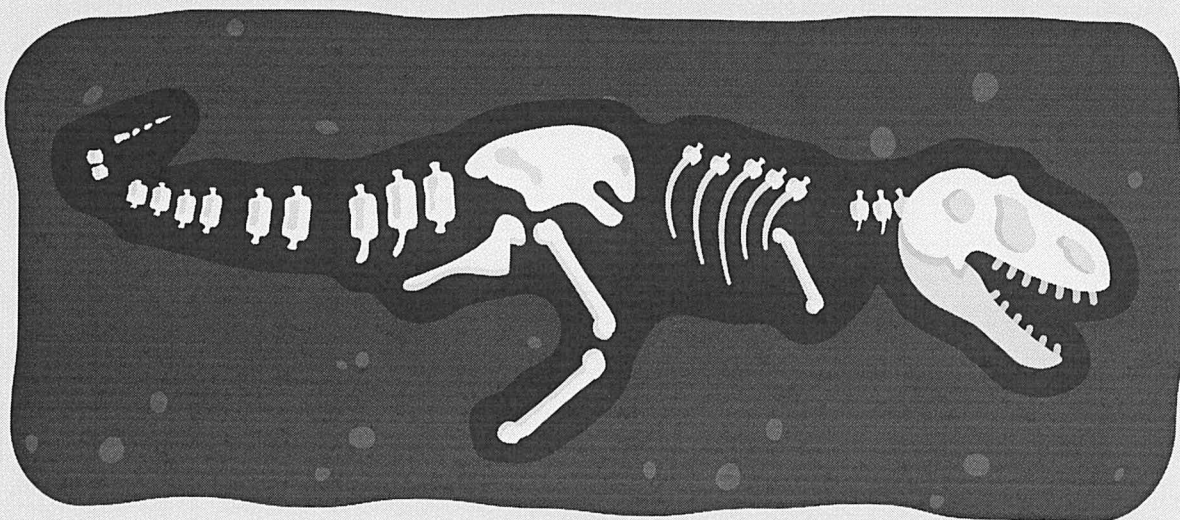
The oldest fossils ever found are from rocks found at Shark Bay, Australia. They are dated to be about 3.5 billion years old.

Did You Know?

Scientists who study fossils to find out about Earth's history are called 'palaeontologists'.

What Do Fossils Teach Us?

Fossils are amazing as they give us a sneak peek into what life was like in the past and help us compare the past with the present. Because fossils preserve past events, they can give us facts about plants and animals, weather events and even land formations over time. They can also tell us when specific events occurred. You might say fossils help scientists create a timeline of Earth's history!



One of the largest fossils ever found was a *Tyrannosaurus rex* fossil. Nicknamed 'Scotty' by palaeontologists, this ginormous skeleton measured up at about 12.8 metres long and weighed more than 60 kilograms.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Fossicking for Fossils

1. What is a fossil?

2. Why is it more common for the hard parts of animal and plant remains to be fossilised?

3. What does the text mean when it says “Fossils help scientists create a timeline of Earth’s history”?

4. The text states that it takes a minimum of 10 000 years for a fossil to be produced. Why do you think this is?

5. In your own words, explain what an excavation is.

6. Which do you think would be easier for palaeontologists to excavate, body fossils or trace fossils? Explain your answer.

7. Why do you think people don’t find fossils every time they dig up their own backyards?

FORMATION OF THE EARTH

The origin of our home planet, Earth, is linked to the emergence of the sun. About 5 billion years ago, a nebula of gas and dust floating in space began to coalesce, contract and spin, forming a disc in the middle. It became so dense that it led to the creation of a star, our sun. The remaining disc of dust and gas kept revolving around the newly formed star.

These specks of dust were pulled towards each other as a result of their own gravity. The specks of dust grew bigger and became small rocks. Small rocks combined to make bigger rocks and so it went for another 500 million years.

4.5 billion years ago, Earth became the size and shape that we know today but it was a very different place. It was a boiling ball of molten rock. The temperature on this lava-like surface would have been about 1000°C. There was no air and only traces of water in the form of steam.

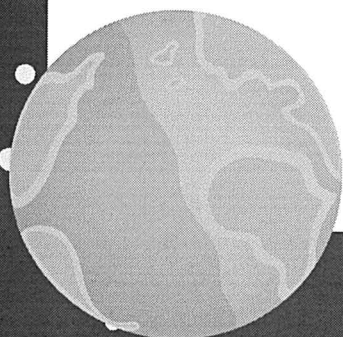
For the next 700 million years, Earth was hit with a bombardment of debris from the solar system. During this time, another planet about the size of Mars collided with the newly formed Earth. The collision sent dust and debris into space which, over the next 1000 years, settled to form a ring that orbited Earth. 100 million years later, this debris coalesced to form a large ball of rock that we now call the moon.

This bombardment also provided the new planet with different chemicals and minerals. The meteoroids and asteroids were made of different materials and also carried very small particles of something that would be a key feature of the future planet: water. Over hundreds of millions of years, these minerals and water particles accumulated to a point where liquid water became present on the surface.

The Earth's surface began to cool which allowed a crust to form. Gases also started to accumulate and an atmosphere began to develop. 3.8 billion years ago, the bombardment of the planet eased and Earth began to look something like we know today. Oceans of water were present, with volcanic islands scattered across them.

It would be another 2 billion years before large land masses and breathable air appeared and complex organisms were living in the oceans. The first humans didn't arrive for another 1.6 billion years after that.

It seems remarkable that this planet we know today, the planet we call home, came into existence as a result of some specks of dust floating in space.



Name _____

Date _____

Formation of Earth

1. What celestial body had to be formed first before Earth could come into existence?

2. How long did it take for Earth to become roughly the size and shape it is today?

3. Research the definitions for the words below. Write the definition beside the word.
 - a) nebula

 - b) debris

 - c) bombardment

4. Create a five steps summary for the formation of Earth.
 - a)

 - b)

 - c)

 - d)

 - e)



THE HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN

Halloween is a very popular holiday all around the world, and it's easy to see why! Who doesn't enjoy dressing up in a costume, getting plenty of lollies, and watching spooky movies? While these traditions are exciting and entertaining, Halloween hasn't always been about fun costumes and delicious treats.

To learn the history of Halloween, you'll have to look back 2000 years in the past to the Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced SAH-win). This festival celebrated the end of the harvest season and the coming of winter. The Celtic people in Europe would gather together and celebrate with bonfires, dancing, and eating.

The Celtic people believed that the veil between the living and the dead was its thinnest on Samhain. This allowed people to contact their loved ones who had passed away because they were closer than usual. Traditionally, a 'silent supper' was observed. People ate dinner in silence, placed pictures of family members on the table, and reserved an empty seat for the loved one's spirit. Occasionally, families would set their loved ones' favourite foods outside to welcome them into their homes.

Because the veil between the living and the dead was thin this night, many people believed they needed to protect their homes from unwanted spirits. They would

hollow out gourds and place a candle inside. Then, they would place the gourds outside of the house to ward off any unwanted spirits. Many people also dressed up in 'costumes' to blend in with the spirits. They would put fire ash on their faces, making them unrecognisable to any unwanted spirits. This would later lead to people wearing masks.

It's easy to see where many of the Halloween traditions originate. Dressing up in costumes, carving pumpkins, and trick or treating can all be traced back to the festival of Samhain. While Halloween is now a night of fun for those celebrating, it was a sacred, sometimes spooky, night for the Celtic people in Europe.



Some children would knock on doors and ask for a 'soul cake', a small, individual dessert. Children would offer to pray for the family in exchange for the treat.

Name: _____

Date: _____

The History of Halloween

1. Compare and contrast the festival of Samhain with how we celebrate Halloween. List at least 3 similarities and 3 differences.

2. What is the main idea of this text?

- a) to show how Samhain and Halloween are different
- b) to explain the history of Halloween and where its traditions come from
- c) to explain why Halloween is such a popular holiday
- d) to explain why we wear costumes on Halloween

3. In paragraph 5, what does the word originate mean? What words or phrases help you determine the meaning?

4. Read the following sentence from the text:

To learn the history of Halloween, you'll have to look back 2000 years in the past to the Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced SAH-win).

Why does the author include this particular sentence in the text?

- a) to show the reader how to pronounce the word Samhain
- b) to persuade the reader that Halloween is an ancient holiday
- c) to describe to the reader where the celebration of Halloween originated
- d) to explain to the reader that Halloween is a Celtic holiday

The History of Halloween – Questions

Name: _____

Date: _____

5. Read the following sentence from the text:

The Celtic people believed that the veil between the living and the dead was its thinnest on Samhain.

What does the author mean by this sentence? What information from the surrounding sentences gives you a clue as to what the author means?

6. If you were given the task of creating an additional text feature for this article, what would you create, e.g. sub-headings, photographs, bold words, etc. and why?

7. What can the reader infer from the image and caption?

- a) The idea of trick or treating came from the tradition of asking for 'soul cakes'.
- b) Children asking for 'soul cakes' were dressed up in costumes.
- c) 'Soul cakes' were a delicious treat that children enjoyed.
- d) Children loved walking to other people's houses to ask for a 'soul cake'.