

READING & TRAINING

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Great Mysteries of Our World



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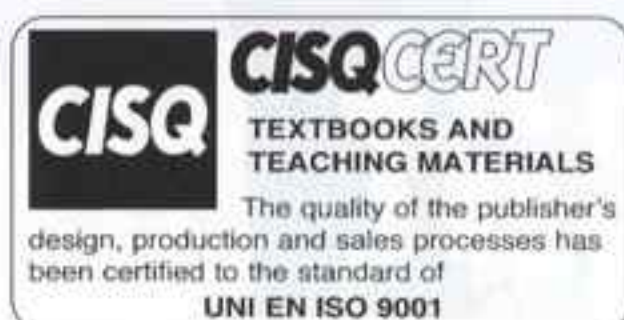
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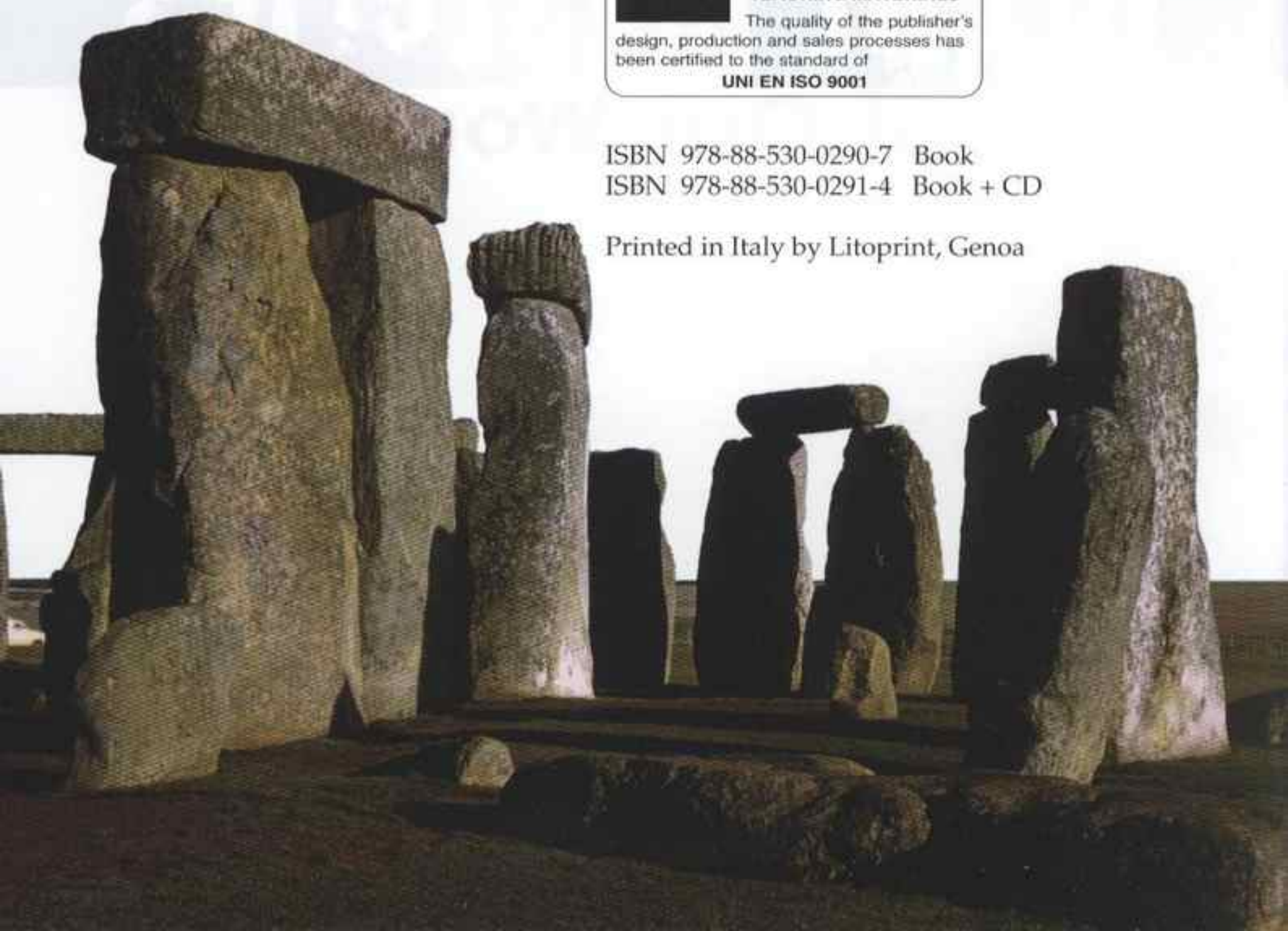
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Cambridge Preliminary English Test-style exercises

T: GRADE 5

Trinity-style exercises (Grade 5)

This story is recorded in full.



These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the extracts linked to the listening activities.



Great My

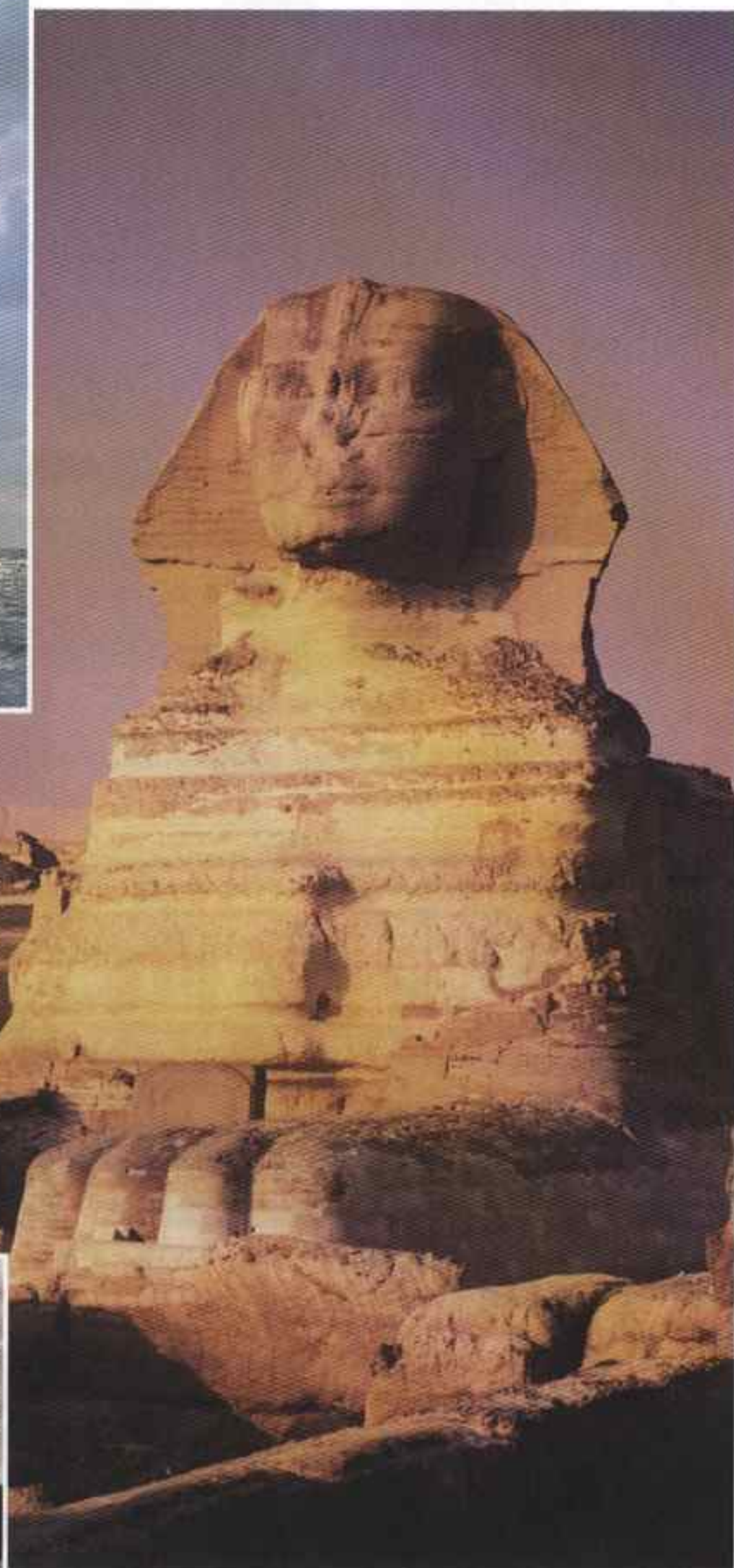
Great Mysteries of Our World

All through history people have been fascinated by the great mysteries of our world. Some of these mysteries are ancient and others are more recent. A few of them are tragic. But they all have one common characteristic: no one has ever been able to solve them. There are no logical explanations or solutions to these mysteries. They have no scientific explanation.

In this book you will read about eight great mysteries from different parts of the world, from different times. Each mystery involves people who deal with unknown forces, hidden powers and supernatural phenomena. These people sometimes become victims of these fatal forces without understanding why.



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Before you read

1 Listening

Part One tells us the strange story of a ship called the *Mary Celeste*. Listen to the beginning of Part One. Choose the correct picture and put a tick (✓) in the box above it.

- 1 Captain Morehouse saw a dark spot on the horizon. What was it?

A ☐



B ☐



C ☐



- 2 What accident happened to the *Amazon* after its first voyage?

A ☐



B ☐



C ☐



- 3 How many sailors were there on the *Mary Celeste*?

A ☐



B ☐



C ☐



4 Besides the other sailors, who was on the ship with Captain Briggs?

A ☐



B ☐



C ☐



5 What was the destination of the *Mary Celeste*?

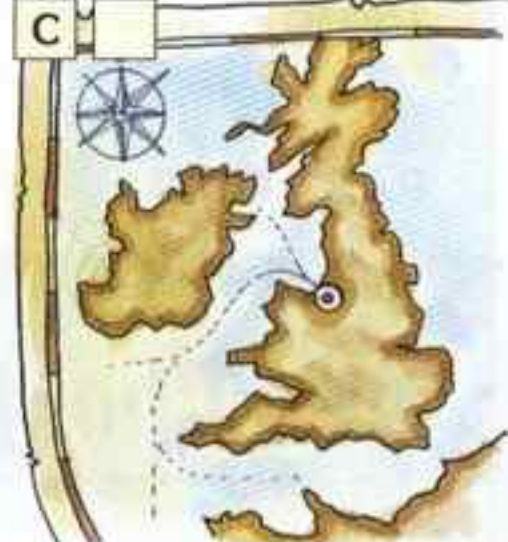
A ☐



B ☐



C ☐

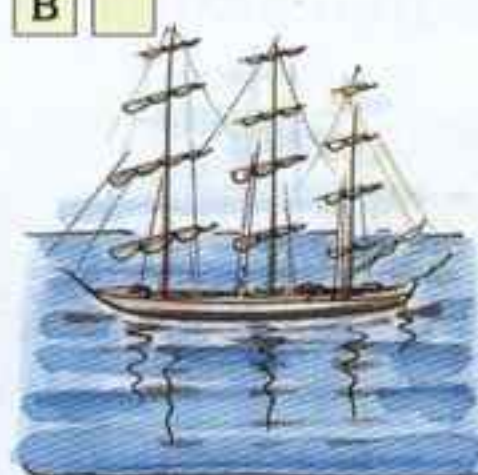


6 What was the weather like during the first fifteen days?

A ☐



B ☐



C ☐

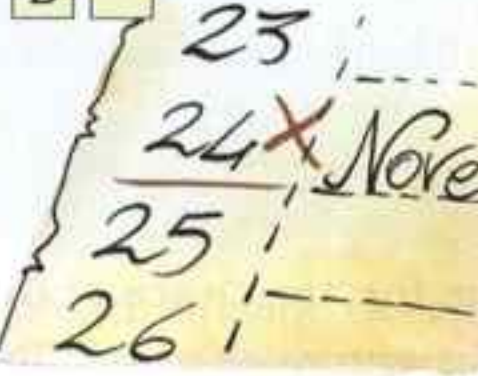


7 When did Captain Briggs write in his log book about the island of Santa Maria?

A ☐



B ☐



C ☐





Mary

PART ONE

The Ghost Ship Mary Celeste

A Mysterious Disappearance



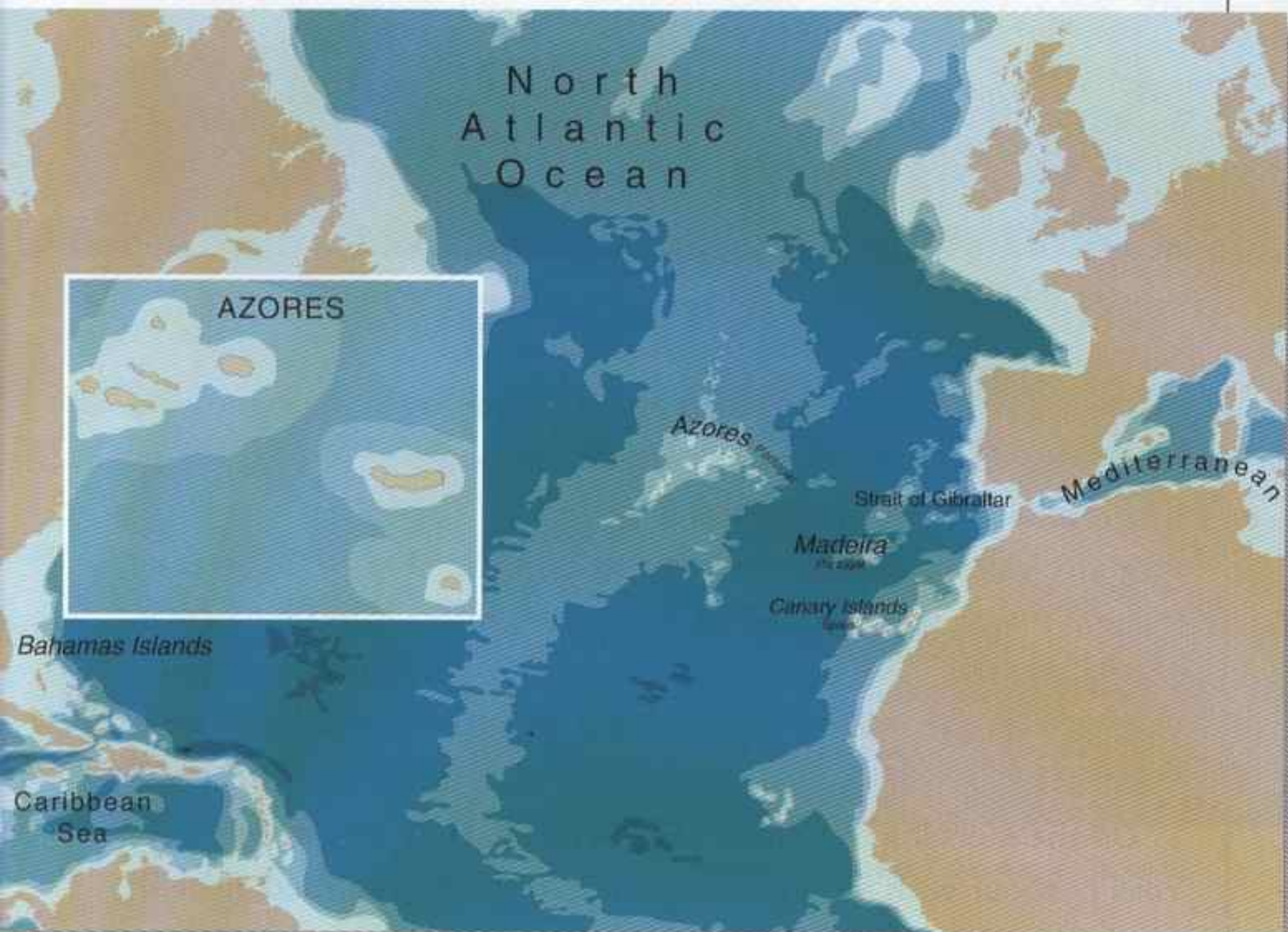
On 4 December 1872 the British ship *Dei Gratia*¹ was crossing the Atlantic Ocean to Europe. As the ship came close to the Azores, the captain of the ship, Captain Morehouse, suddenly saw a mysterious dark spot on the horizon. 'What could it be?' he thought, and he ordered some of his crew² to go and investigate. When the crew of the *Dei Gratia* came close to the spot, they saw that it was a ship — the *Mary Celeste*. But something was very, very wrong. There were no signs of life on the *Mary Celeste*. Apparently it had sailed on its course for 370 nautical miles

1. **Dei Gratia** : Latin for 'the Grace of God'.
2. **crew** : the people who work on a ship or plane.

as a ghost ship. It had navigated without a navigator. To understand this mystery we must go back to the year 1861.

The *Mary Celeste*

In 1861 a ship called the *Amazon* was built. But the *Amazon* had bad luck from the start. It was badly damaged during its first voyage in 1862 and shortly after there was a fire on board. During the years that followed there were many other accidents on the ship.



A map of the North Atlantic Ocean and the Azores Islands.

Great Mysteries of Our World



New York harbour (19th century) by Currier & Ives.

The *Amazon* was finally sold and its name was changed to the *Mary Celeste*. But the new owners did not know the superstition that it is bad luck to change a ship's name.

Many sailors did not want to sail on the ship because they thought it was unlucky, and so it was very difficult to find a crew. Finally enough sailors were found to make a crew of seven men. The new captain of the *Mary Celeste* was 37-year-old Benjamin Briggs, a sailor with great experience.

On the morning of 5 November 1872 the *Mary Celeste* left New York harbour with a cargo¹ of 1700 barrels of unrefined alcohol.

1. cargo : the things that are transported by a ship, plane or vehicle.

The weather that day was perfect for sailing. On board the ship were Captain Briggs, his wife Sarah, their two-year-old daughter Sophia and a crew of seven men.

The ship's destination was Genoa, Italy. Captain Briggs' log book¹ shows that the first fifteen days of the voyage were calm, and the wind and weather were good.

But once the ship came near to the Azores, the weather suddenly changed. Captain Briggs wrote in his log book that there was a storm with a lot of wind. At first this did not worry him, because he was an expert navigator.



Stormy seas around the Azores Islands.

1. **log book** : the diary kept by the captain of a ship.

As the hours passed, the wind became stronger and the weather got much worse. The night of 24 November was very stormy. At 5 a.m. on 25 November Captain Briggs wrote in his log book that he could see the island of Santa Maria, but he did not stop there.



He sailed north of the island of Santa Maria. This was very strange because the most direct route to the Strait of Gibraltar, entrance to the Mediterranean Sea, is south of the island. Why did he go north instead of south?

Perhaps he wanted to leave the stormy route and look for better weather. In any case, in the early morning of 25 November the *Mary Celeste* sailed along the northern coast of the island.

Then something terrible happened on the *Mary Celeste* – something so unexpected and shocking that we must suppose Captain Briggs abandoned the ship and got into the lifeboat¹ with his wife, daughter and crew. No one ever heard from them or saw them again.

On Board the *Mary Celeste*

When Captain Morehouse's men got on the *Mary Celeste* on 4 December, they found no signs of violence. The ship's lifeboat had gone, but all parts of the ship were in order. There was plenty of food and fresh water on the ship. It is even said that the captain's breakfast was still on the table in his cabin! However, the ship's compass was broken and the other navigation instruments were not there.

1. **lifeboat** : a small boat which people use to escape from a ship.

The sailors hurried back to the *Dei Gratia* and told their captain about the frightening discovery.

'The people on the *Mary Celeste* probably abandoned the ship during a violent storm,' said Captain Morehouse.

'But there was no evidence of a violent storm on the ship. Everything is in perfect condition,' said one of the crew members.

'Perhaps there was a mutiny¹ at sea,' said the captain, trying to explain the mystery.

'If that's true, what happened to the people on the ship?' asked another sailor.

'I don't know,' said Captain Morehouse. 'I can't find a logical explanation, but now we must do something with the deserted ship.'

He ordered one of his officers, Oliver Deveau, and two other men to sail the *Mary Celeste* to the port of Gibraltar. The *Dei Gratia* went ahead and the *Mary Celeste* followed.

The Investigation

When the *Mary Celeste* arrived in Gibraltar, the British authorities examined it carefully and wanted answers to these questions:

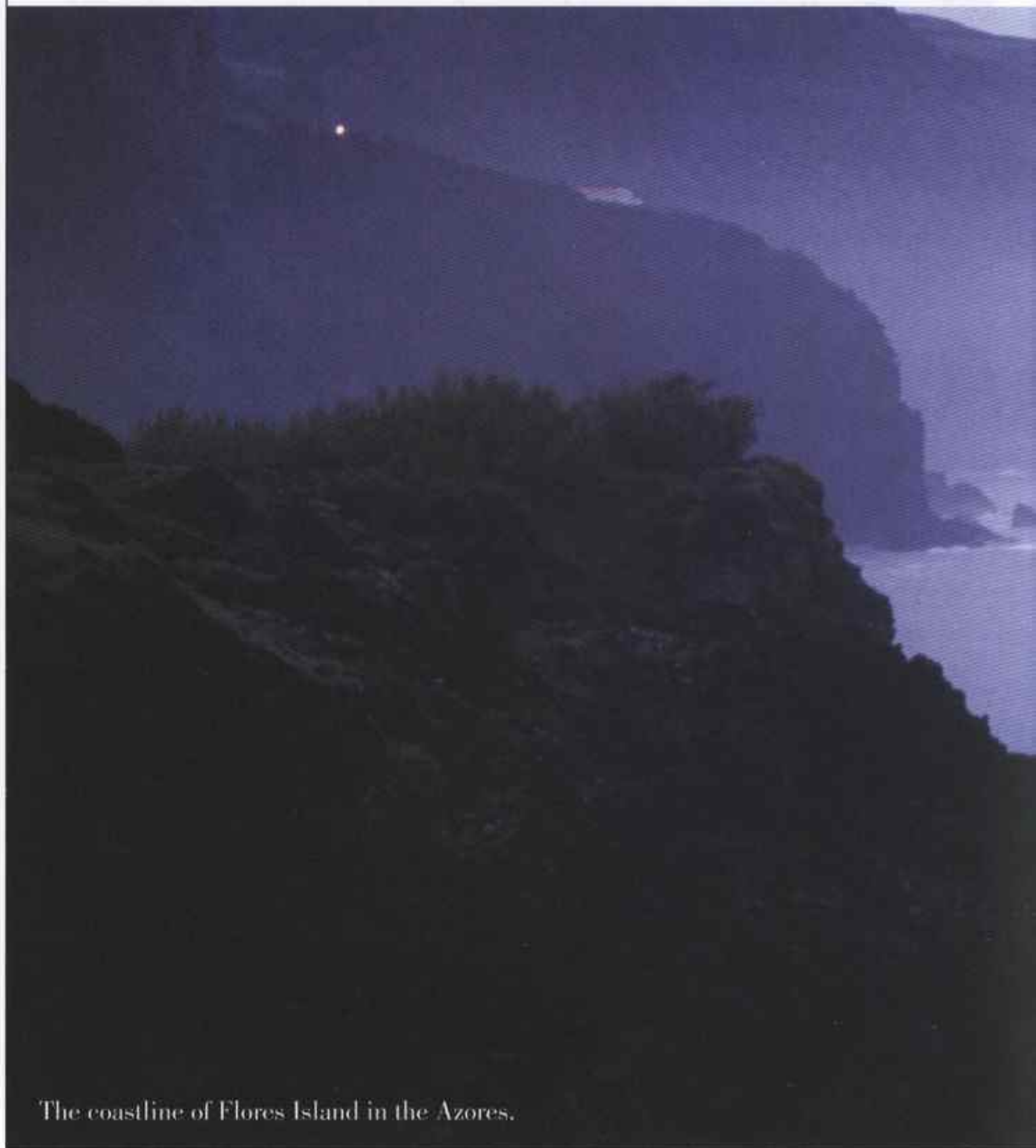
- 1 Why were nine of the barrels of unrefined alcohol empty? This is a dangerous liquid. Did the crew drink it and go mad?
- 2 Did pirates take over the ship? If so, where did they go?
- 3 How did the ship remain on its course for ten days without anyone to sail it? Perhaps someone remained on board after 25 November. But who? And where was that person?

1. **mutiny** : (here) a rebellion by the sailors against the captain.

Great Mysteries of Our World

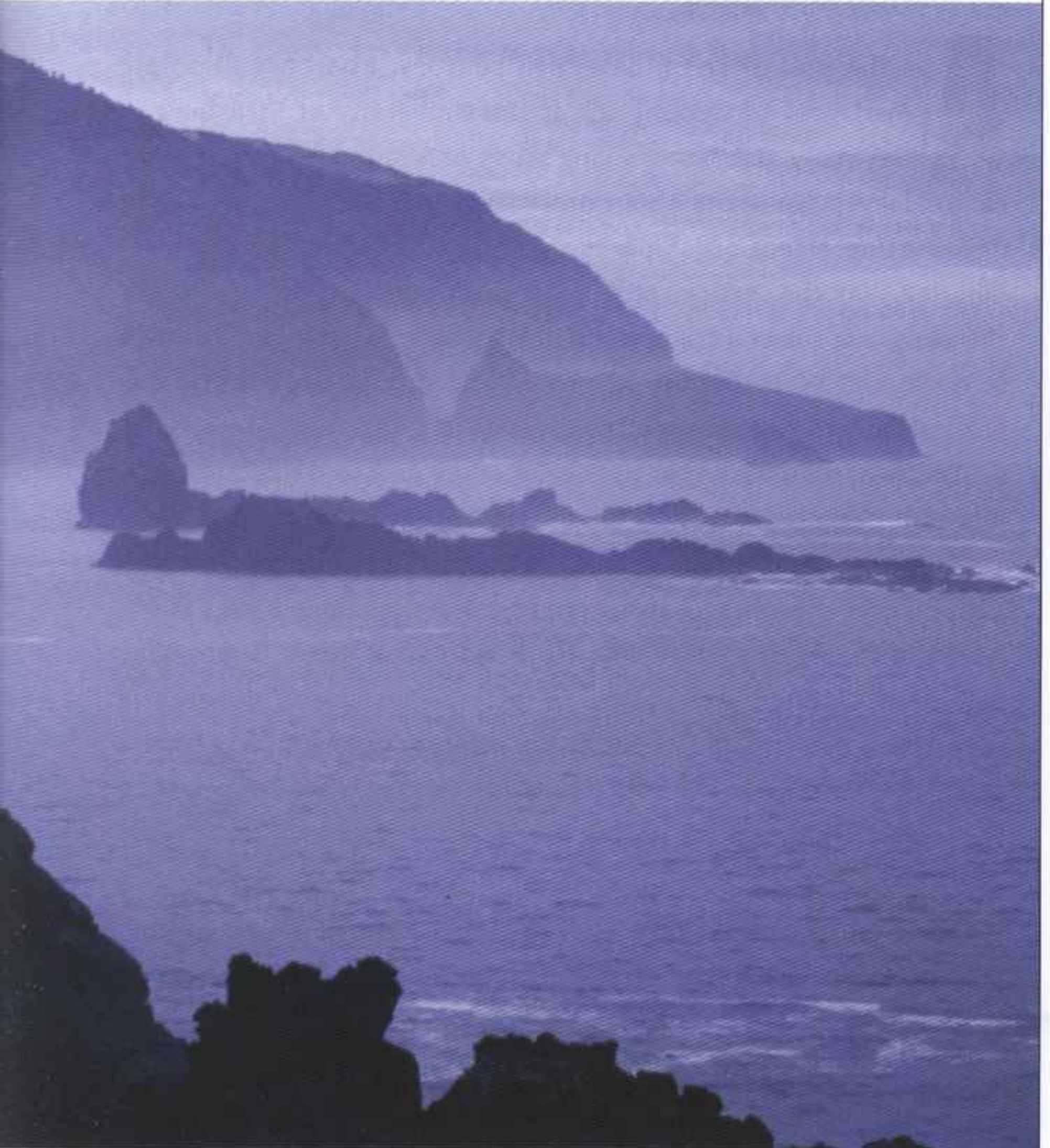
Both the British and the American authorities investigated the mystery, but after two years of investigations, no one was able to find a logical explanation.

Newspapers all over the world began writing about the ghost



The coastline of Flores Island in the Azores.

ship. People everywhere were fascinated by the *Mary Celeste* and more than thirty books were published on the subject. Even the famous British writer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle became interested in the ship and wrote a story about it.



Great Mysteries of Our World

During the next eleven years the ship was sold seventeen times. Then it was destroyed on some rocks in the Caribbean Sea, and that was the end of its unlucky life.

A Mystery Explained?

At the end of the nineteenth century, Eberhart Rudolph, Professor of Geophysics at the University of Strasburg in Germany, published a long study on seaquakes (underwater earthquakes). He wrote about more than 550 seaquakes and their devastating effect on ships. Is this what happened to the *Mary Celeste*? Was the unlucky ship a victim of a violent seaquake? Did the seaquake make a frightening noise, shake the ship and throw it into the air? Were the ten people on the ship so terrified by this natural catastrophe that they abandoned it?

Today scientists know that seaquakes create extremely high waves, accompanied by very loud noises, and are very destructive.

According to the Acoustics Division of the US Naval Research Laboratory, there have been major seaquakes near Santa Maria Island in the Azores every year for hundreds of years. There have also been strong earthquakes in the Azores Islands during the centuries. But in 1872 there were no instruments to record a seaquake. So no one will ever know for certain what happened to the *Mary Celeste*, and the mystery remains.

What do you think? Was the *Mary Celeste* a victim of a seaquake or was it a victim of its own bad luck?

Go back to the text

PET 1 Comprehension

Look at the statements below about the *Mary Celeste*. Decide if each statement is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, mark A. If it is not correct, mark B.

- 1 The *Mary Celeste* sailed for 370 nautical miles without a navigator.
- 2 The *Mary Celeste* was always an unlucky ship.
- 3 It was difficult to find sailors for the *Mary Celeste*.
- 4 Ships going towards the Strait of Gibraltar normally sailed north of the Azores.
- 5 The sailors of the *Dei Gratia* were surprised because there was nobody on the *Mary Celeste*.
- 6 The British authorities thought that pirates had taken over the ship.
- 7 Some of the barrels of alcohol were empty.
- 8 Not many books were written about the *Mary Celeste*.
- 9 The Acoustics Division of the US Naval Research Laboratory believes that a seaquake hit the *Mary Celeste*.

1 ... 2 ... 3 ... 4 ... 5 ... 6 ... 7 ... 8 ... 9 ...

2 Wordsearch – navigation and geography

Look at the wordsearch on page 18. Circle the 16 words relating to navigation and geography from the text. Below are some clues to help you.

Navigation

1. _ h _ p: a large boat.
2. _ a p _ _ _ : the person who directs a ship.
3. _ r _ w: the people who work on a ship.
4. _ o u _ _ : the course of a ship.
5. _ a i l _ _ s: the people who work on a ship.
6. _ _ _ g o: what a ship carries.
7. _ o _ book: the official diary of a ship.

8. _ _ f _ _ _ a _ : the boat used in an emergency.
9. _ _ m p _ _ _ : an instrument for discovering geographical directions.
10. _ u t _ _ _ : a rebellion on board a ship.

Geography

1. n _ _ _ h: a direction.
2. _ _ a: a large body of salt water.
3. _ o a _ _ : the part of land touching the sea.
4. h _ _ _ _ _ : a place where ships can stop.
5. _ _ _ a _ t: a channel joining two seas.
6. _ s l _ _ _ : a body of land surrounded by water.

E	S	E	M	R	J	S	E	A	I	H	H
C	A	P	T	A	I	N	O	R	J	L	A
S	P	A	C	R	C	O	A	S	T	C	R
C	S	A	I	L	O	R	S	C	X	A	B
A	R	N	I	A	T	U	A	C	G	R	O
R	I	E	N	H	A	R	T	E	R	G	U
G	S	S	W	O	W	A	M	E	C	O	R
A	L	A	S	L	R	M	U	T	I	N	Y
N	A	C	H	O	S	T	R	A	I	T	I
O	N	J	I	P	E	S	H	I	O	Z	R
M	D	D	P	L	I	F	E	B	O	A	T
C	L	O	G	C	O	M	P	A	S	S	S

T: GRADE 5

3 Topic — Weather

Weather plays an important role in the story of the *Mary Celeste*. Prepare a five minute talk for your class about the weather, using the questions below to help you. Remember to bring in a photo or an object to help you.

- a. What do you think is the best weather for sailing a ship?
- b. Have you ever been in a storm?
- c. If the weather is rainy, sunny or cloudy, how does it make you feel?
- d. What's the weather like today? What about yesterday?

INTERNET PROJECT

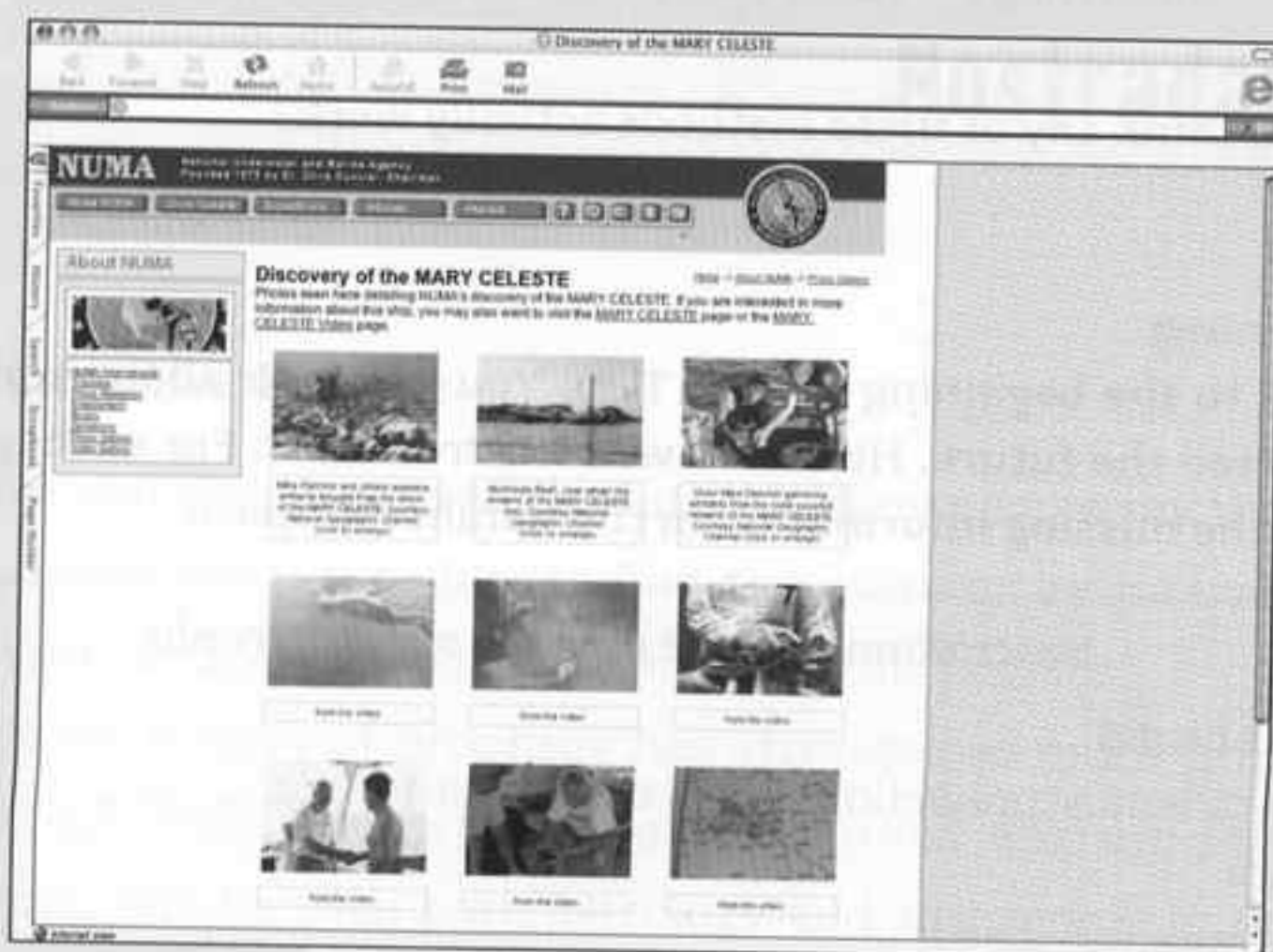
The story continues

Connect to the Internet and go to www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it. Insert the title or part of the title of the book into our search engine.

Open the page for *Great Mysteries of Our World*. Click on the Internet project link. Go down the page until you find the title of this book and click on the relevant link for this project.

Now answer the questions below.

- What did Clive Cussler and John Davis find?
- Where and when did they find it?
- Why were they looking for it?
- What do you think made the *Mary Celeste* disappear?



Before you read

1 Speaking

Look at the picture on page 23 and answer the questions below.

- a. What do you think this man was interested in?
- b. Can you guess the period in which he lived?
- c. Do you know the English names of the instruments in the picture?
- d. What do you think he uses them for?

2 You are going to read about a man who predicted the future. What different methods do people use in order to predict the future? Look at the list below. Explain briefly what each method involves and add to the list.

phrenology tarot cards astrology tea leaves

Do you think any of these methods actually work?

3 Listening

Listen to the beginning of Part Two. You will hear about a man who predicted the future. His name was Nostradamus. For each question, fill in the missing information in the numbered space.

Nostradamus – the prophet of catastrophe

What he did

Nostradamus’ predictions often talk about 1

Death

Nostradamus died 2 ago.

Childhood

He was born in southern 3

His birthday is 4

Education

When Nostradamus was a child, he was very good at 5

.....

He studied 6 at the University of Montpellier.



PART TWO

Nostradamus

Predicting the Future



Have you ever predicted the future? Many people say they can predict the future by reading the stars or by interpreting tarot cards,¹ but do they really have this power?

No one in the history of prophecy has attracted as much attention as Nostradamus. He was an exceptional astrologer and astronomer, and he used both astrology and astronomy to predict the future. Nostradamus is sometimes called the 'prophet of catastrophe' because his predictions often involve war and death. Yet people continue referring to him and his prophecies almost five hundred years after he died.

1. **tarot cards** : cards used by fortune tellers to predict the future.

Who was Nostradamus?

Nostradamus' real name was Michel de Nostradame and he was born on 14 December 1503 in St Remy de Provence, southern France. As a child he was very intelligent, with a special talent for mathematics and astrology. He studied medicine at the University of Montpellier, and began to help victims of the plague¹ using his new medical ideas. Unfortunately, his first wife and two small children later died of the plague.



Nostradamus travelled around France and Italy, and he continued to learn and practise medicine. He started to question common beliefs, and this caused problems for him on many occasions. Legends began to grow about his strange ability to predict the future. One of them said that, while he was in Italy, Nostradamus met a monk. He immediately went down on his knees, and called the monk 'Your Holiness'. About 45 years later the monk became Pope Sixtus V.

Nostradamus realised that he had extraordinary powers of prophecy, and he started writing down his predictions in the form of four-line poems. He quickly became famous throughout France and Europe, and even Queen Catherine de Medici of France wanted to meet him. Nostradamus predicted the death of her husband, King Henry II, during a tournament. In 1559 his prediction came true!

Nostradamus died in Salon de Provence, southern France, in 1566. It is said that he even predicted his own death. After a long illness, on 1 July Nostradamus called the local priest to his house.

1. **plague** : a very infectious and fatal disease.



Nostradamus.

Great Mysteries of Our World

He said, 'Dear Chavigny, you won't see me alive again!' The next morning he was dead.

The 'Centuries'

A collection of his strange predictions was first published in 1555 under the name Centuries. The word 'centuries' refers to the fact that there are a hundred four-line poems, or 'quatrains', in each book. The quatrains predict events from the mid-1500s until the end of the world. People have studied and interpreted his predictions since the sixteenth century.

Nostradamus made his poems difficult to understand by using words from Latin, French, Provençal, Greek and Italian. This was because he did not want the Church to accuse him of being a magician or a heretic.¹ He also deliberately confused the time sequence of his prophecies so that they were more cryptic.

The Prophecies

But just how did Nostradamus predict the future? He worked with books of the occult,² and studied the stars using his knowledge of astrology. He also used an ancient method of predicting the future called scrying, where people look into a bowl of water until they have an inspiration or see an image.

People who believe him say that he predicted the Great Fire of London, the destiny of Napoleon and the rise to power of Adolf Hitler. They also say that he predicted the assassination of some presidents of the United States and some of the disasters of modern times.

1. **heretic** : a person who does not accept the beliefs of a religion.
2. **occult** : knowledge of supernatural, magic powers.

Let's take a look at some of his famous prophecies.

Century 2, Quatrain 51

*The blood of the just will be demanded of London
Burnt by fire in three times twenty plus six.*

People think this prediction is about the Great Fire of London, a devastating event which destroyed much of the city. 'Three times twenty plus six' corresponds to 66, the last two numbers of the year 1666, when the Great Fire of London took place.

Century 1, Quatrain 60

*An emperor will be born near Italy,
Who will cost the Empire a high price. [...]*

This is interpreted as a prophecy about the rise to power of the French Emperor, Napoleon. His parents were Italian, and he was born on the island of Corsica, which is near Italy. He certainly built up a huge French Empire, but at the end of his rule France lost most of the territory that he had conquered.

Let's take a look at some of the predictions for the twentieth century.

Century 2, Quatrain 24

*Beasts ferocious with hunger will cross the rivers.
The greater part of the battlefield will be against Hister.
Into a cage of iron the great one will be pulled,
When the child of Germany observes no law.*

This quatrain is said to predict World War II and the rise to power of Adolf Hitler. The first line could refer to the battles of World War II. 'Hister' is the Latin name for the River Danube which runs through Linz, where Adolf Hitler lived as a child. The fourth



The Great Fire of London (1666) by the Dutch School.



line could refer to the terrible lessons that Hitler gave to the young people of Germany.

Century 1, Quatrain 81

Nine will be set apart from the human flock,¹

Separated from judgement and counsel:

Their fate to be determined on departure.

Kappa, Theta, Lambda, dead, banished² and scattered.³

In 1986 the United States Space Shuttle 'Challenger' exploded just over a minute after it left the earth, killing the entire crew. The third line of the quatrain ('their fate to be determined on departure') seems to predict this event, although there were seven, and not nine, astronauts on board the Shuttle. The last line has the Greek letters kappa, lambda and theta, which in English are 'k', 'l' and 'th'. If you change the order of these letters and add some vowel sounds ('io' and 'o') you get the second name of the man who designed 'Challenger'. His name was Moreton Thiokol.

A Mystery Explained?

Some of the events Nostradamus predicted never happened, but a great many of his predictions could seem true. Sceptics,⁴ however, think that his predictions can be interpreted to fit almost any event.

What do you think? Does the future already exist? And if so, who can read it?

1. **flock** : (here) big group, crowd.

2. **banished** : sent away forever.

3. **scattered** : thrown in many directions.

4. **sceptics** : people who doubt something, particularly something religious or supernatural.

Go back to the text

1 Comprehension

Match the phrases in columns A and B to make logical sentences.

A

1. ☐ It is sad and ironic that Nostradamus' wife and children died of the plague
2. ☐ Many people still study Nostradamus' prophecies
3. ☐ Nostradamus called a monk 'Your Highness'
4. ☐ Queen Catherine de Medici wanted to meet Nostradamus
5. ☐ Each of the books was called a 'century'
6. ☐ Nostradamus used words from several different languages in his quatrains
7. ☐ He wanted his written prophecies to be difficult to understand
8. ☐ Sceptics do not believe his prophecies

B

- a. because he did not want the church to accuse him of being a heretic.
- b. because he knew that he was going to become the pope.
- c. because they think that they can apply to almost any situation.
- d. because they talk about events from his time until the end of the world.
- e. because it contained one hundred quatrains.
- f. because he had saved many people from dying of that disease.
- g. because he was famous all over Europe.
- h. because he wanted his prophecies to be difficult to understand.

2 Write about it – sceptic or believer?

Is Nostradamus fantastic or a fantastic fake? Give your opinion in about 100 words. Include the following information:

- When he lived
- What you think
- What period is covered by his predictions
- What important events he predicted
- Why sceptics don't believe them

Nostradamus is one of the most popular prophets of the modern world even though he lived more than

PET 3 Nostradamus books

The people below are all looking for a book to buy. On pages 30-1 there are some book reviews. Decide which book (letters A-E) would be the most suitable for each person (1-3).



- 1 Dick loves science fiction books. He especially likes books that give an idea of just how we will live in the future. He does not care if the vision of the future is possible, but it must be entertaining.

- 2 Crystal likes visiting old homes and castles. She loves looking at plates, forks, brushes and other everyday things. She likes the same thing in a book: something that shows her how ordinary people really lived in the past.



- 3 Alice is a professor of mathematics, but she adores reading exaggerated stories about crimes, natural disasters and the supernatural. She does not believe them, but she thinks they are fun, and when she reads a book, she wants it to be the same.

Recommended books

A

Nostradamus – The Secret Manuscript – Melvin R. Ottoman

If you are one of the many people who visit Mr Ottoman's famous web site every day, you will certainly want to read this book. Mr Ottoman says he found an old manuscript with the real meaning of all of Nostradamus' famous prophecies. So, if you want to know about the next major earthquake, or the next horrible epidemic, this is the book for you.

B *Nostradamus – The Complete Prophecies and Writings – translated by Joseph E. Brown*

This is the most recent translation of Nostradamus' famous prophecies. Dr Brown provides translations of the poems plus historic references within the context of Nostradamus' time. In addition, he explains why some of the translations on the Internet are wrong. This is an excellent book for anyone who wants to see what Nostradamus really said.

C *Our Technological Future – What Nostradamus Has to Say – by Hubert Meriwether*

Nostradamus' prophecies predict every major event of the last five hundred years. But what about the future? Unlike other books on Nostradamus, this one tells us about science and technology in the next fifty years. Will ordinary people fly to Mars and the moon? This book answers this and many other questions about our everyday lives in the future.

D *Nostradamus – Why We Still Believe Him – by Julia J. Bergson*

Dr Bergson has studied Nostradamus and his fans for the last ten years. 'How can anyone believe such nonsense?' she says. In this book she explains how the fears and anxieties of the modern world create a need for something certain. Dr Bergson is a famous psychiatrist, and her analysis will help the reader understand how the modern mind works.

E *Nostradamus and His Times – by Jamila M. MacDonald*

Forget about the wars, disasters and assassinations of our time, Dr MacDonald, a professor of history at Oxford University, tells us nothing about them. But she does tell us a lot about the world in which Nostradamus lived in. She tells us just what prophecies meant to the ordinary people of his time, and why he became so famous.

PET 4 Here are some sentences about Nostradamus. For each question, complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first, using no more than three words.

- 0 No one in the history of prophecy has attracted as much attention as Nostradamus.
Nostradamus has attracted more attention *than anybody* in the history of prophecy.
- 1 He was an exceptional astrologer and astronomer.
He was very astrology and astronomy.
- 2 His prophecies are still read almost five hundred years after his death.
Even though almost five hundred years ago, his prophecies are still read.
- 3 People continue referring to his prophecies.
People have not to his prophecies.
- 4 You will not see me alive again.
The next time you see me, I

INTERNET PROJECT

The story continues

- a. Type in 'Nostradamus' in one of the major search engines. How many results does it give you?
- b. It is said that 'Nostradamus' is one of the most popular subjects on the Internet during moments of international crisis. Type in 'Nostradamus' and some major international event of the last five years. Did Nostradamus predict it?
- c. What about the Internet itself, where Nostradamus is so popular? Did he predict that too?



PART THREE

King Tutankhamun's Tomb

The Valley of the Kings

Perhaps the most famous of all the pharaohs of Egypt is Tutankhamun. The mystery surrounding the discovery of his tomb is one of the most fascinating and bizarre of our times. Was King Tutankhamun's tomb protected by a terrible curse¹ that has continued through the centuries?

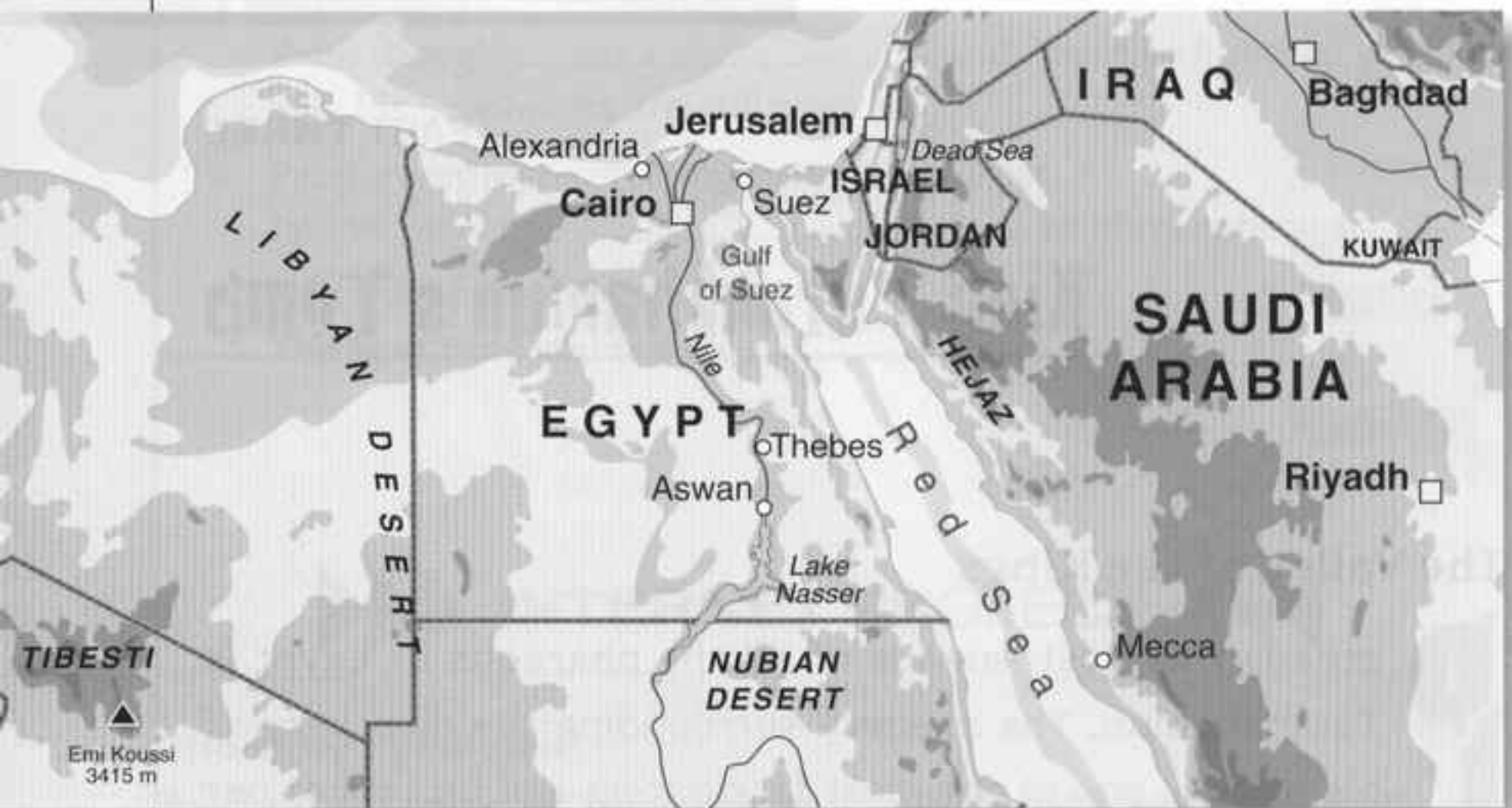
Around four thousand years ago, the ancient Egyptians buried their pharaohs in pyramids along the Nile in northern Egypt. The pharaohs' tombs were filled with precious jewels and rich treasures for their journey to another world after their death.

1. **curse** : an object, event or words that cause evil or hurt.

Great Mysteries of Our World

But tomb robbers entered most of the pyramids and stole these treasures. It was almost impossible to stop them.

In around 1,500 BC the ancient Egyptians began to build secret tombs in the Valley of the Kings, in the hills near the town of Thebes. However, over the centuries, robbers still found the tombs and stole most – but not all – of their precious treasures. A few tombs, including King Tutankhamun's, remained almost untouched.



A map of Egypt.

The Search for King Tut's Tomb

European archaeologists became interested in ancient Egypt in the nineteenth century. They knew that there were treasures of immense scientific and artistic value inside the pharaohs' tombs. But they also knew that many of them had been robbed centuries before.



The Valley of the Kings.

In 1891 a young Englishman called Howard Carter arrived in Egypt and started working with the European archaeologists. After many years of work, he began to look for an undiscovered tomb: the tomb of the almost unknown King Tutankhamun, or King Tut, in the Valley of the Kings.

King Tut became Pharaoh at the age of nine and ruled until his death in 1323 BC, when he was only eighteen. His death is surrounded by mystery and no one really knows how he died. An X-ray of his mummy shows an injury at the back of his head. Did someone kill King Tut? And if so, why? Did he die of natural causes? This remains an unsolved mystery.

Great Mysteries of Our World

Howard Carter needed someone to sponsor his search for King Tut's tomb. Fortunately, he was able to convince Lord Carnarvon, a wealthy British aristocrat, to help him. For five years, Carter and his workers searched for King Tut's tomb in the Valley of the Kings, but they found nothing. Carter returned to England to convince Lord Carnarvon to give him more money. In 1922 Lord Carnarvon agreed to sponsor him for one last try.

Carter brought a pet canary back with him to Egypt. When Reis Ahmed, one of Carter's workers, saw the yellow canary for the first time, he exclaimed, 'A golden bird! It will lead us to a tomb full of gold!'

Perhaps the bird was a good omen,¹ because after a short time Carter's workers discovered a step in a rock that had been hidden for centuries. They dug further and found fifteen more steps: they led to an ancient door that had never been opened.

'Could this be the tomb of Tutankhamun, at last?' Carter said. He could not believe his eyes. 'I must contact Lord Carnarvon immediately. We can't open the tomb until he's here!'

Carter was sure that he had finally discovered King Tut's tomb. When he went home that night his servant met him at the door with a few yellow feathers in his hand. He was terribly frightened and said, 'Your pet canary was killed by a cobra! The cobra is the ancient symbol of the pharaoh. It ate your canary because it led you to the hidden tomb. You must not disturb the tomb of the pharaoh!'

Carter was not superstitious and did not believe what his

1. **omen** : usually a sign that something bad will happen.

servant told him. But it is interesting to note that cobras are rare in Egypt and are rarely seen in the late autumn, when the tomb was discovered.

The Curse of Tutankhamun

Carter sent a telegram to Lord Carnarvon, who immediately left for Egypt. On 26 November 1922 Lord Carnarvon watched Carter and his workers make a hole in the door of King Tut's tomb. Carter entered the tomb holding a candle. Behind him Lord Carnarvon asked, 'Can you see anything?' Carter answered, 'Yes, wonderful things!' The tomb had not been opened for over 3,200 years.

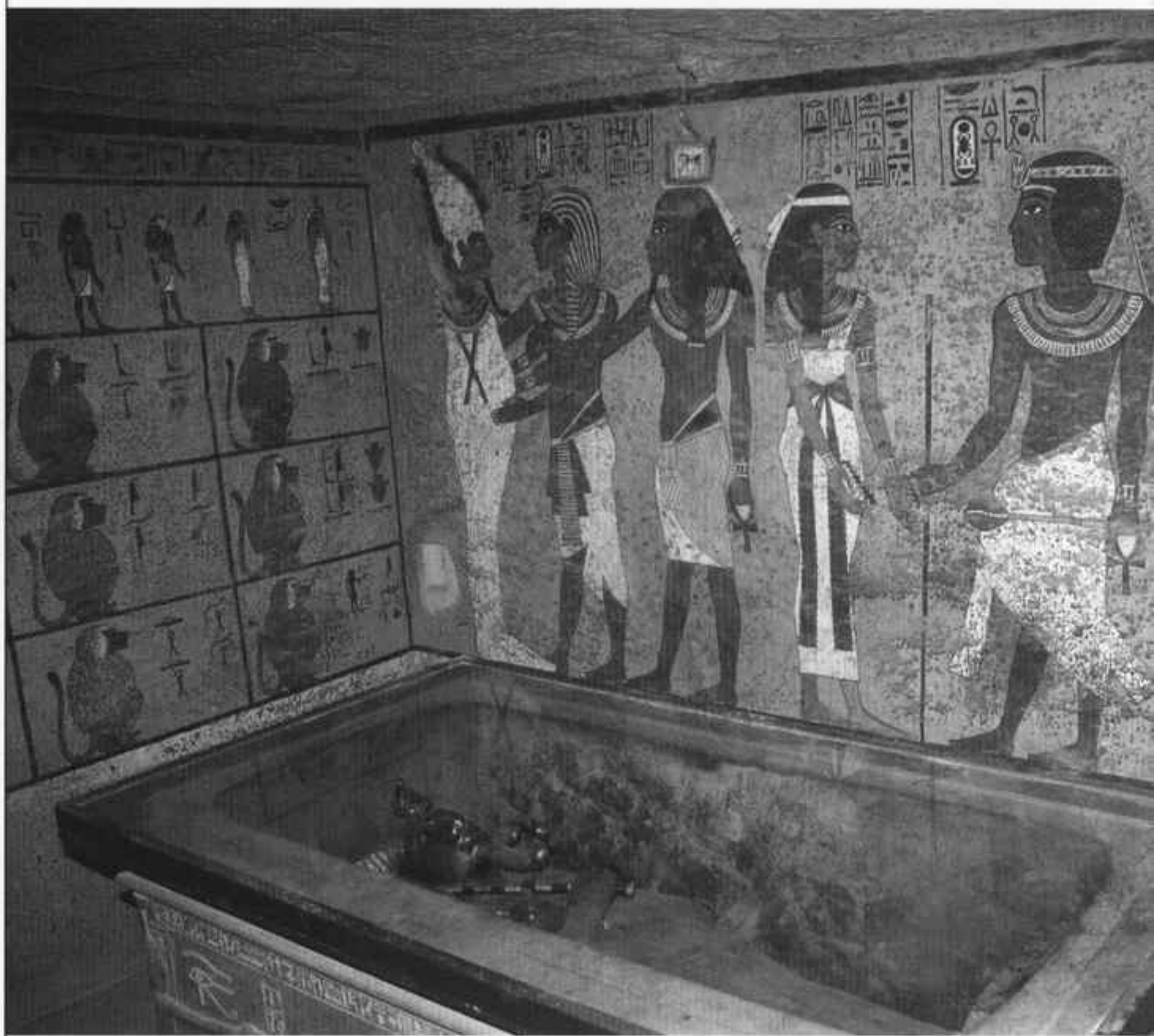
Carter discovered one of the most magnificent treasures in history. The tomb contained an amazing collection of treasures — over three thousand precious objects, gold, jewels, a wonderful funeral mask and a stone sarcophagus with three gold coffins,¹ one inside the other. The third gold coffin was made of more than 1,000 kilograms of gold. Inside it was the mummy of the boy-king Tutankhamun.

Rumours² say that Carter also found a tablet of stone with this message: 'Death comes on wings to anyone who enters the tomb of the pharaoh.' This was the pharaoh's curse, but he did not tell his workers because he did not want to frighten them.

About five months after the tomb was opened, Lord Carnarvon was bitten on his left cheek by a mosquito. This caused a serious infection and a fever. He was taken to

1. **coffins** : long boxes used to contain dead bodies.

2. **rumours** : stories that may or may not be true.



Tutankhamun's tomb.

hospital in Cairo, where he became very ill and died. When Lord Carnarvon died, the lights went out for several hours in Cairo. At the exact time of his death, Susie, his favourite dog back home in England, howled¹ and died.

1. **howled** : made the long crying sound typical of dogs.

Something very strange happened when the mummy of King Tut was examined in 1925. It was discovered that the young pharaoh had a cut on his left cheek in the same place as the mosquito bite on Lord Carnarvon's left cheek. Was this a coincidence, or was it the result of the curse?

Many mysterious and unexplained deaths followed the opening of the tomb. The French Egyptologist George Bénédict, the American Egyptologist Arthur Mace and others died soon after visiting it. Were they all under the influence of the curse?

Strange things have happened more recently, too. Mohammed Ibrahim was the Director of Egyptian Antiquities at the Museum of Cairo. After signing an agreement to send part of King Tut's treasures to an exhibition in Paris, he was killed by a car. The same thing happened to the new Director, Gamal Meherz, after he signed another agreement in 1972.

A Mystery Explained?

Today some experts say that the cause of these strange deaths was a mysterious virus or bacteria that was present in the tomb. Others disagree.

Could the deaths be a simple set of coincidences? When the tomb was opened in 1922, newspapers invented many mysterious stories about the curse, and people began to believe them. Howard Carter, who never believed in the curse, died of natural causes at the age of sixty-five.

What do you think? Would you enter King Tut's tomb?

Go back to the text

PET 1 Comprehension

For each question, mark the letter next to the correct answer – A, B, C or D.

- 1 Egyptian pharaohs were buried with fantastic treasures because
 - A ☐ they needed them for their voyages after their death.
 - B ☐ they did not want robbers to steal them.
 - C ☐ they did not want their enemies to have them after their death.
 - D ☐ they knew that terrible curses would protect them.
- 2 King Tut's tomb is particularly famous because
 - A ☐ he was not buried in a pyramid.
 - B ☐ it is one of the oldest in Egypt.
 - C ☐ he was buried with incredibly precious treasures.
 - D ☐ it was one of the few to be discovered with its treasure complete.
- 3 When did European archaeologists first become interested in ancient Egypt?
 - A ☐ in the 1600s
 - B ☐ in the 1700s
 - C ☐ in the 1800s
 - D ☐ in the 1900s
- 4 How did Carter and his workers first discover the tomb?
 - A ☐ They followed Carter's canary.
 - B ☐ They found steps that led to it.
 - C ☐ Reis Ahmed told him where it was.
 - D ☐ They discovered an ancient door that had never been opened before.
- 5 When Carter found King Tut's tomb, he did not go in immediately because
 - A ☐ he was frightened by what the servant said about the canary.
 - B ☐ he did not believe that it was really King Tut's tomb.

- C ☐ he wanted Lord Carnarvon to give him more money first.
D ☐ he wanted Lord Carnarvon to be there when they opened it.
- 6 How did Lord Carnarvon die?
- A ☐ from an infected insect bite
B ☐ from a cobra bite
C ☐ from fright
D ☐ from a mysterious virus or bacteria

'Strange things have happened more recently'

We use the **Past Simple** to talk about events at a definite point of time in the past. It is the tense we use the most when we tell a story.

*Carter **watched** his workers make a hole... Carter **entered** the tomb... Behind him Lord Carnarvon **asked**...*

We use the **Present Perfect** when we talk about a period that continues up to the present. We often use it with the adverbs *recently, already, always, yet, just, ever and never*.

*I've **never been** to Egypt. People **have always wanted** to know more about mummies. I **have been** on trips on the Nile twice in my life.*

2 Present Perfect and Past Simple

Read the article about mummies, and put the infinitives in brackets in the Past Simple or Present Perfect according to the context.

Ever since ancient times people a. (be) *have been* fascinated by Egyptian mummies. The ancient Greek historian Herodotus (484-425 BC) b. (visit) *visited* Egypt and then c. (write) *wrote* a long description of them. From the 1200s to the 1600s, Europeans d. (think) *thought* that mummies had special healing powers. They e. (cut) *cut* them up into tiny pieces and f. (use) *used* them as medicine. This is strange, but Europeans g. (do) *do* even stranger things with mummies. For example, in Victorian England 'mummy unwrappings' h. (be) *were* popular

entertainment. People **i.** (come) and **j.** (watch) somebody take the cloth off a mummy. Recently though, scientists **k.** (carry out) more serious investigations, and they **l.** (use) many sophisticated technologies such as CAT scans, three-dimensional X-ray images produced with a computer. They **m.** (examine) the DNA of ancient Egyptian mummies. This tells us more about their age, sex and cause of death. In 1997 people **n.** (discover) a huge number of mummies at the Bahariya Oasis near Cairo. According to experts, there may be 10,000 mummies buried there. Since their discovery many scientists **o.** (do) much important research there, but the Egyptians **p.** (build) many facilities for tourists too. Even now, real mummies are still popular entertainment.

T: GRADE 5

3 Topic – Entertainment

Hollywood mummies

In films mummies are often shown as evil characters, and their tombs are often protected by curses. This is ironic, since for the Egyptians mummies and their tombs were a comfort to the living. Living Egyptians often asked their dead, mummified relatives for help and advice.

Ask your partner about any films he/she has seen about mummies, or objects and places with curses. Use the questions below to help you. Then prepare a five minute talk for your class. Remember to bring in an object or photo.

- a. Have you ever seen a film about ancient Egypt? Were there mummies in it? Did they come back to life?
- b. Were their tombs cursed?
- c. Have you seen other films about houses or objects with curses?
- d. Do you believe in the curse of Tutankhamun?

INTERNET PROJECT

The story continues

Now you know something about where and when mummies were made. But how were they made? Follow the instructions on page 19 to find the websites you need. Then answer these questions about mummies.

- When did Egyptians first start making mummies?
- Which people were made into mummies?
- How exactly were they made?

Download some interesting images regarding these questions, and explain them to your class.

Before you read

- Fill in the gaps with the words in the box.

because happened that why called
during disappeared used in for

Bizarre and sinister things have **a.** in the Bermuda Triangle **b.** hundreds of years. Planes have mysteriously **c.** without any reason. Ships have been found without their crew, and no one has been able to explain **d.** The term 'Bermuda Triangle' was **e.** for the first time by the American writer Vincent Gaddis **f.** 1964. It describes the area that forms an almost perfect triangle between Bermuda, the east coast of Florida and Puerto Rico. Before 1964 the area was **g.** the Devil's Triangle, the Triangle of Death and the Graveyard of the Atlantic **h.** of all the mysterious disappearances there. Christopher Columbus was the first navigator to report strange happenings in the area of the Bermuda Triangle. In 1492, **i.** his voyage to the New World, Columbus wrote in his journal **j.** his compass stopped working in the area that we now call the Bermuda Triangle.



Now listen to the beginning of Part Four to check your answers.



PART **FOUR**

The Bermuda Triangle

The Triangle



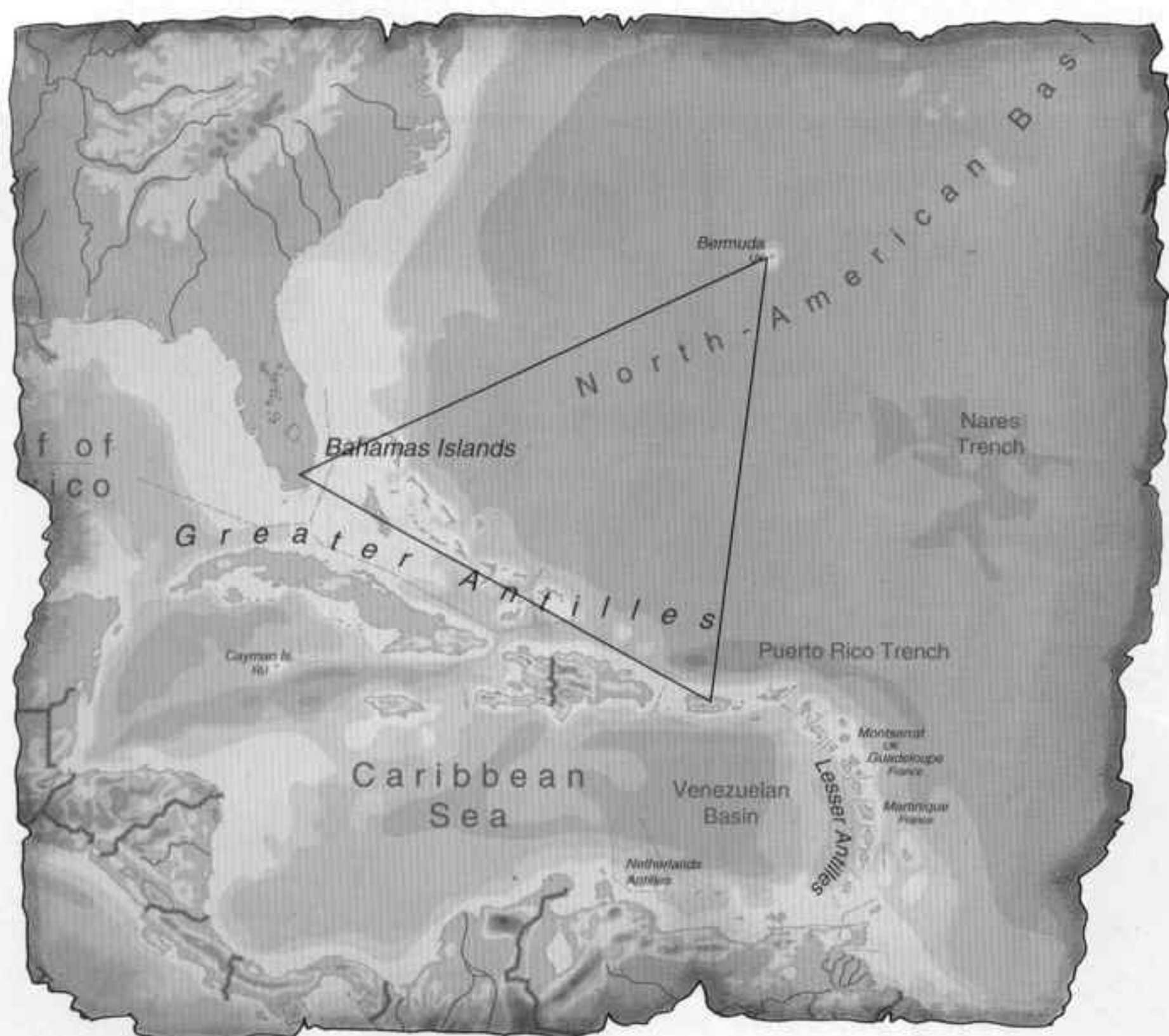
Bizarre and sinister things have happened in the Bermuda Triangle for hundreds of years. Planes have mysteriously disappeared without any reason. Ships have been found without their crew, and no one has been able to explain why.

The term 'Bermuda Triangle' was used for the first time by the American writer Vincent Gaddis in 1964. It describes the area that forms an almost perfect triangle between Bermuda, the south coast of Florida and Puerto Rico. Before 1964 the area was called the Devil's Triangle, the Triangle of Death and the Graveyard¹ of

1. Graveyard : cemetery.

the Atlantic because of all the mysterious disappearances there.

Christopher Columbus was the first navigator to report strange happenings in the area of the Bermuda Triangle. In 1492, during his voyage to the New World, Columbus wrote in his journal that his compass stopped working in the area that we now call the Bermuda Triangle. He also wrote that he and his crew saw strange red lights in the sky, which they thought were the lights of a meteor.



A map showing the area of the Bermuda Triangle.

Disappearing Ships

In the centuries that followed Columbus' voyage, British and Spanish sailing ships, pirate ships and other vessels have disappeared in this area of the Atlantic Ocean. But why?

In March 1918, the *Cyclop*, a US Navy ship, disappeared while sailing from Barbados to Norfolk, Virginia, with 309 people on board. Neither the ship nor the crew were ever found.

The sailing ship *Deering* was found in perfect condition but without its crew near Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, on 30



A poster showing a missing boat (1974).

January 1921. The *Deering* had passed through the Bermuda Triangle and its crew probably disappeared there.

In 1940 the yacht *Gloria Colite* was found abandoned in the Bermuda Triangle. The yacht was in perfect condition, but the crew had disappeared. The *Rubicon*, a Cuban ship carrying a large cargo, became another ghost ship in 1944. A small dog was the only living thing on the ship when it was found on Florida's east coast! In 1963 the *Marine Sulphur Queen*, a large ship carrying sulphur from Beaumont, Texas, to Norfolk, Virginia, simply vanished.

Many other bizarre and unexplained disappearances like these have occurred over the years.

Lost Planes



On 5 December 1945 something happened that caused great interest all over the world. A group of five US Navy planes, called Flight 19, took off from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The weather was perfect, and for the first two hours everything went well. Then the Naval Air Station at Fort Lauderdale began receiving strange radio messages from the pilots.

'Everything is wrong... and strange. Both of the compasses have stopped working! We can't be sure of our direction!' said Lieutenant Charles C. Taylor, the leader of the flight.

The instruments on the planes were not working and the planes were lost. The pilots were not able to communicate. At 4 p.m. Lieutenant Taylor gave his last command to another pilot, and then all communication with Flight 19 ended. What had happened to the five planes and their pilots? The Naval Air Station sent out search planes to look for them.

The search planes flew over the area for days without finding anything. Then one of the search planes disappeared too. No one has ever found the five planes or the search plane, and there has never been an explanation for this tragedy.

There were rumours that aliens kidnapped¹ the pilots. Some experts said that the irregular magnetic field in the Bermuda Triangle stopped the planes' instruments from working. Others said that bad weather conditions caused the planes to crash into the ocean. The Atlantic is very deep in this area, and perhaps this is why the planes were never found. But not everyone agrees.

After the tragedy of Flight 19, the world started asking questions. People were suddenly interested in finding out more about this mysterious area. Newspapers and magazine articles started appearing. Vincent Gaddis wrote a book, *Invisible Horizons: True Mysteries of the Sea*, in which he dedicated a long chapter to the mysterious triangle. Many more books have been written on the subject, but there is no logical explanation to the mystery.

On 11 June 1986, Martin Caidin, an experienced pilot, was flying above the Bermuda Triangle in good weather. Suddenly, the sky around his plane became very cloudy. Then the colour of the sky changed to such a bright yellow that he could not see. The equipment on his plane stopped working and above him there was a hole, through which he could see blue sky. Below his plane he could see another hole and then the ocean. Caidin flew his plane for four hours in these strange conditions. Finally, the sky turned blue again and Caidin's equipment started working. He turned around and looked — but all he could see was clear blue sky.

1. **kidnapped** : took them away by force.



Five US Navy planes (1940s).

In the twentieth century more than 140 ships and planes with more than 1,000 people on board vanished. No one has ever seen or heard from them again.

A Mystery Explained?

The mystery of the Bermuda Triangle remains. Some say that it is where aliens enter the earth's atmosphere and kidnap humans. Other believe that the legendary lost city of Atlantis pulls ships and planes down into the Atlantic Ocean. Still others say that the weather in the triangle is very unusual. Another theory says that the area is influenced by a strong magnetic field which affects navigation instruments.

Scientists have tried to explain some of the mysteries of the Bermuda Triangle. They say that big gas bubbles can come out of the ocean and cause serious problems for ships and planes. However, this does not explain why ships and yachts have been found in perfect condition, but without their crews. What happened to the sailors? Did they abandon their ships? Were they taken away, and, if so, by whom?

Lawrence Kusche, a research librarian at Arizona State University, spent many years examining the reported cases. He concluded that there was a logical explanation for most of the disappearances: bad weather conditions, poor equipment or human error. But not everyone agrees with Kusche.

Why haven't bodies, or pieces of the planes and ships ever been found? Why does the sky change colour? Why do navigation instruments stop working? Who has the right answer? No one knows.

Go back to the text

1 Questions and answers

Write questions for the answers below. The first two are done for you.

- a. Who was Christopher Columbus?
He was the first navigator to report strange happenings in the Bermuda Triangle.
- b. What was the Cyclop?
It was a US Navy ship that disappeared with 309 people on board.
- c. He was the American writer who first used the term 'Bermuda Triangle'.
- d. It was a group of five US Navy planes that disappeared in the Bermuda Triangle.
- e. He was the pilot who led Flight 19.
- f. It was the book that contained a long chapter about the Bermuda Triangle.
- g. He was the experienced pilot who saw the sky change to bright yellow.
- h. He was the research librarian who spent years examining disappearances in the Bermuda Triangle.

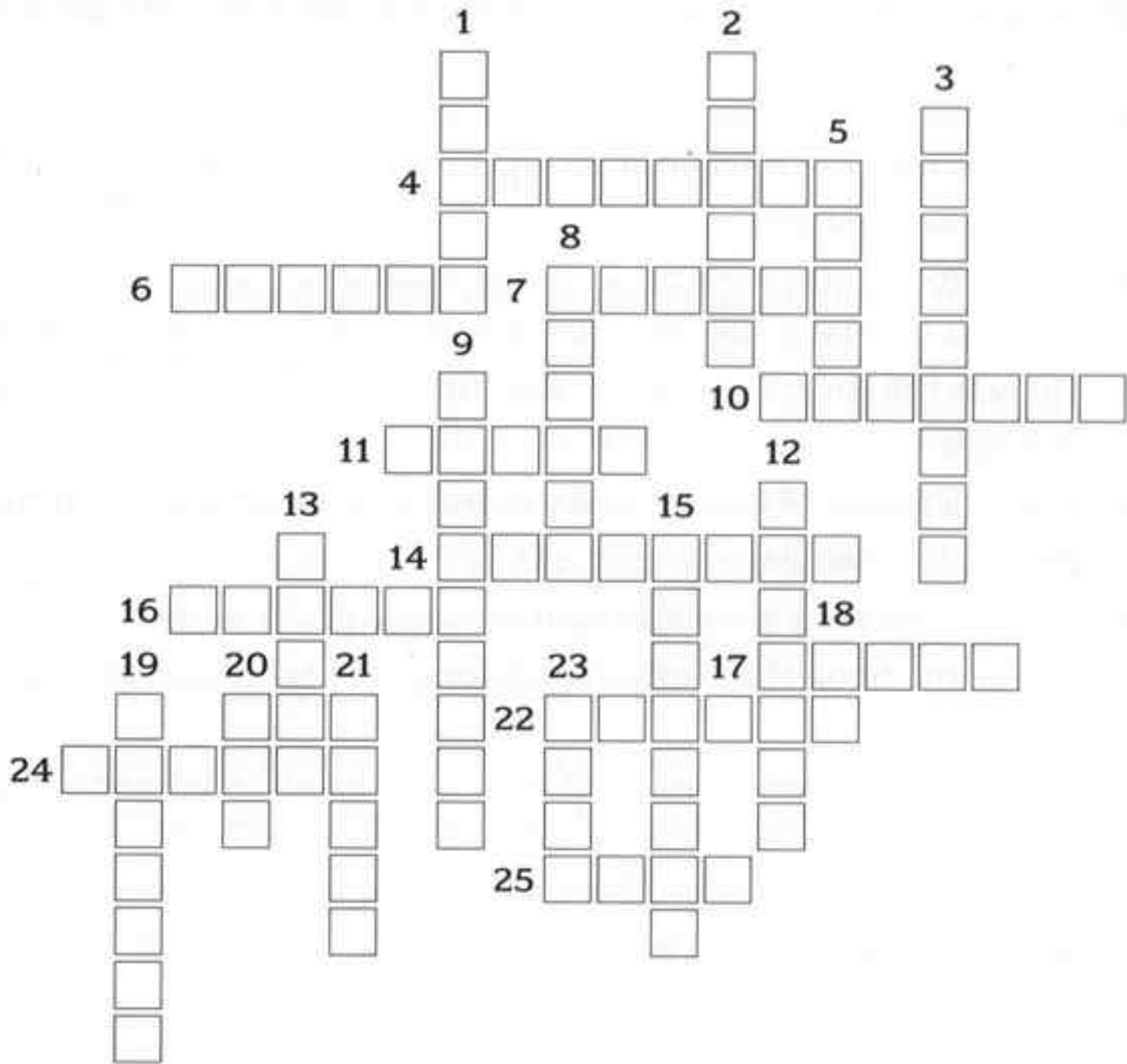
2 Question words

Complete the questions with *why*, *how*, *what* or *when*, and then answer the questions.

- a. are some of the other names for the Bermuda Triangle?
- b. strange thing happened to Christopher Columbus in the Bermuda Triangle?
- c. did Flight 19 take off from Fort Lauderdale, Florida?
- d. did experts explain the disappearance of Flight 19?
- e. many people disappeared in the Bermuda Triangle in the twentieth century?
- f. aren't gas bubbles a good explanation for the strange happenings in the Bermuda Triangle?
- g. did Lawrence Kusche explain most of the disappearances in the Bermuda Triangle?

3 Crossword

Complete the crossword with words from Part Four.



Across

4. Name of an ocean.
6. Journey, trip.
7. Information about somebody or something which we do not know if is true or not.
10. Instrument used to find geographical directions.
11. Hit against something causing destruction or damage.

14. Disappeared.

16. Round ball of air or gas in water.
17. The past participle of 'take'
22. Programmed trip by a plane.
24. Criminal who steals and robs at sea.
25. are you coming?

Down

1. You can fly in this.
2. This comes from outer space.
3. Taken away by force.
5. What a ship, train or lorry carries.
8. Motive.
9. Cemetery.
12. Atmospheric or meteorological conditions.
13. Around, approximately.
15. Evil.
18. I will meet you ... 8 o'clock.
19. Strange.
20. Opposite of 'good'.
21. State of the south-western United States.
23. Past Simple of 'fly'.



4 Listening – a real mystery?

To help you understand the recording better, look up the following words in your dictionary: *sceptical*, *training flight*, *coastguard*, *fuel*. Now listen to the recording and for each question, put a (✓) in the correct box.

- 1 How many calls for help does the coastguard receive each year?
 A ☐ 80,000
 B ☐ 8,000
 C ☐ 1,000
- 2 The weather in the Bermuda Triangle
 A ☐ changes very quickly.
 B ☐ is generally good.
 C ☐ is generally bad.
- 3 Four of the five pilots of Flight 19 were
 A ☐ ill.
 B ☐ tired.
 C ☐ students.
- 4 The planes of Flight 19 fell into the ocean because
 A ☐ they exploded.
 B ☐ they were destroyed by a hurricane.
 C ☐ they finished their fuel.

- 5 The last caller invites Mr Sceptical
- A ☐ on a boat trip to the Bermuda Triangle.
 - B ☐ on a plane trip over the Bermuda Triangle.
 - C ☐ to visit his friends in Florida.

Before you read



1 Listening

You will hear the story of a famous diamond. For each question, fill in the missing information in the numbered space.

Legendary History

The Hope Diamond originally came from a Hindu statue in India
1 ago.

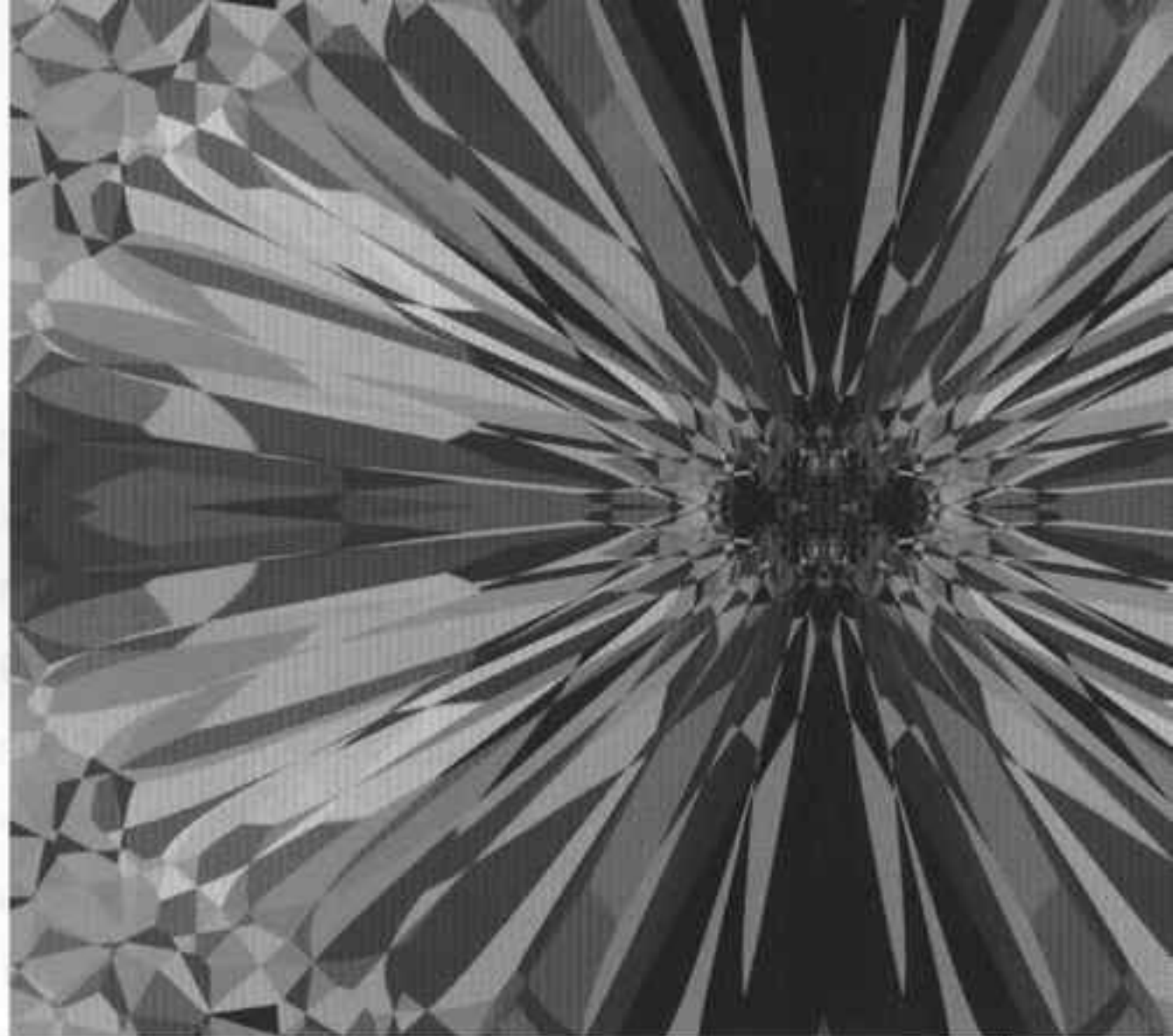
The Hope Diamond in France

A 2 named Tavernier bought it in 1642.
King Louis XIV bought it and wore it on 3 He
called it '4 of the Crown'.

The Hope Diamond in England

The diamond was sold to King George IV, but when he died it was
sold 5 his debts.

Then by 1839 the diamond was owned by a 6
named Henry Philip Hope.



PART FIVE

Cursed Objects

The Hope Diamond

Can a beautiful, precious object like a diamond have a terrible curse? The Hope Diamond has fascinated people for centuries. Its exceptional size, perfect quality and rare colour make it magnificent and unique: a diamond collector's dream. And yet, this priceless jewel has brought its owners bad luck and death. But why?

Legend says that a priest stole the diamond from a Hindu statue in India many centuries ago. The priest was later tortured to death. In 1642 the exquisite diamond was bought by a French jeweller named Jean Baptiste Tavernier, and he took it to Europe. The jewel Tavernier took to Europe was much bigger than the present-day diamond, which has been cut several



times. It originally weighed almost 112.5 carats and was one of the biggest diamonds in the world.

In 1668 Tavernier sold it to King Louis XIV of France, who was very impressed with it. The French king decided to cut the diamond to 67 carats. He officially named it 'The Blue Diamond of the Crown', and wore it proudly on a ribbon around his neck on very special occasions.

Tavernier, who had to return to India to look for another fortune to pay his son's debts, was brutally killed by wild dogs during the trip.

For more than a century the Blue Diamond was worn by France's kings and queens. But when

The Hope Diamond.

King Louis XIV died in 1715 he was a very unhappy man and his empire was in a bad state.

His successors had worse luck. The Princess de Lamballe was beaten to death by an angry street crowd. King Louis XVI and his wife Queen Marie Antoinette, who enjoyed wearing the Blue Diamond, were executed on the guillotine. The Blue Diamond and other royal jewels disappeared in September 1792 during the French Revolution.

Rumours say that the British King George IV bought the Blue Diamond from a jeweller named Daniel Eliason in the early 1800s. When King George died in 1830, he left a lot of debts and the diamond was sold to pay some of them.

By 1839 the precious stone was owned by a wealthy London banker, Henry Philip Hope, who gave the diamond its name. The unlucky jewel remained in the Hope family and eventually became the property of Lord Francis Hope. The curse of the diamond continued and Lord Hope went bankrupt.¹ He had to sell the diamond in 1902, shortly after losing his leg in an accident.

The American jeweller Simon Frankel brought the Hope diamond to the United States in the early 1900s. The cursed diamond changed owners several times and was finally bought by Pierre Cartier, the famous French jeweller.

Cartier showed the splendid jewel to one of his wealthy American clients, Mrs Evalyn Walsh McLean, who was visiting Paris. Mrs McLean had previously told Cartier that objects that were considered bad luck always brought her good luck.

1. **went bankrupt** : became financially ruined.

Great Mysteries of Our World

Mrs McLean bought the extraordinary diamond in January 1911 for \$154,000. She proudly wore the jewel all the time and her friends were very impressed.

Even though Mrs McLean considered the diamond lucky, she did not escape the curse. Her nine-year-old son, Vinson, was killed by a car, and her daughter killed herself at the age of 25. Her husband became mentally ill and lost control of his huge newspaper business. He ended his days in a mental hospital. The immense family fortune quickly disappeared.

A Mystery Explained?

Mrs McLean died in 1947. Although she wanted the jewel to remain in the family, it was sold to Harry Winston, an American jeweller. In 1958 Winston gave the \$100 million diamond to the famous Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C., and it is now part of the Smithsonian National Gem and Mineral Collection. But does the jewel still have its evil power?

Over the years, many people thought that the Hope Diamond was responsible every time something bad happened in the United States. But the Director of the Smithsonian Institution believes that the Diamond has been lucky. 'The gift of the Hope Diamond has brought us good luck. In fact, since the Diamond was given to the Smithsonian, our gem collection has grown and grown!'

What do you think? Can a diamond really cause such bad luck?



Mrs McLean wearing the Hope Diamond.

James Dean's Car

The American actor James Dean was a legendary film idol. Although he died at the age of just twenty-four in 1955, he remains one of the world's most popular actors. James Dean's legend has become even greater because he died so tragically at such a young age. But exactly how did he die?



James Dean in his Porsche Spyder.

James Dean loved fast cars and taking part in car races. On the evening of Friday 23 September 1955 he invited his friend Alec Guinness, the British actor, to see his new racing car. It was a silver-coloured Porsche 550 Spyder and James Dean called it the Little Bastard. When the British actor saw the car, he immediately felt strange and said, 'It is now ten o'clock, Friday 23 September 1955. Listen! If you drive this car, I'm sure you're going to die in it by this time next week.' James Dean just laughed, and Alec Guinness apologised¹ for what he had said.

On the evening of 30 September 1955, James Dean was driving his Porsche Spyder to a car race in Salinas, California. Suddenly, another car pulled out in front of him and Dean crashed into it. He died instantly. The entire world was shocked to hear of the death of the famous young actor... the curse of the Little Bastard had just begun.

The Hollywood car designer George Barris bought the wreck² of the Little Bastard for \$2,500, and planned to sell the good parts of the car. But when the wreck arrived at Barris' garage, it accidentally hit one of the mechanics and broke his legs. After this Barris had bad feelings about the car, but he continued selling its parts.

A young doctor, Troy McHenry, bought the Little Bastard's engine and put it in his racing car. On 22 October 1956 he took part in a car race at the Pomona Fair Grounds in California. During the race he lost control of his car and hit a tree: he was killed instantly.

Dr William Eschrid was another doctor who liked fast cars. He

1. **apologised** : said sorry.

2. **wreck** : (here) broken, destroyed car.

Great Mysteries of Our World

bought another part of the Little Bastard and put it in his racing car. One day he lost control of his car and was seriously injured.

Barris also sold two of the Little Bastard's tyres to a young man. While he was driving both tyres burst at the same time and he was almost killed.

At this point George Barris did not want to sell the car's parts



The wreck of the Little Bastard (30 September 1955).


any more. He realised something was very wrong. 'Can evil take the form of a car?' he asked himself.

He gave the wrecked car to the California Highway Patrol for an exhibition on road safety. After a few days the garage where the Porsche was parked caught fire and every car in the garage was destroyed, except for the Little Bastard.

Finally, the car was put on display at an exhibition in Sacramento, California, and groups of teenage students visited it. One day it fell from its display and seriously injured one of the visitors.

After this unlucky exhibition, the Little Bastard was put on a lorry and transported to another part of California. During the trip the driver, George Barkuis, was thrown from his lorry. The cursed car fell on him and he was killed instantly.

A Mystery Explained?

ther bizarre and mysterious accidents happened until 1960, when the Little Bastard finally disappeared. It was probably stolen by someone who did not believe in the curse. No one has ever been able to find the cursed car again. And we do not know if parts of the Little Bastard are still in circulation.

What do *you* think? Were all these strange accidents just a series of coincidences, or was there really a curse on James Dean's car?

Go back to the text

The Hope Diamond

1 Comprehension

Answer the questions below.

- What bad luck did Lord Hope experience?
- Why wasn't Mrs Evalyn Walsh McLean worried about the curse?
- How much did she pay for the Hope Diamond?
- What bad luck did Mrs McLean experience?
- How did the Hope Diamond become part of the Smithsonian gem collection?
- How does the director of the Smithsonian see the curse of the Hope Diamond?

INTERNET PROJECT

The story continues – Mrs Evalyn Walsh McLean

The Hope Diamond is famous in large part because it once belonged to the extravagant Mrs Evalyn Walsh McLean. Follow the instructions on page 19 to find the websites you need. Then answer these questions.

- How did Evalyn's father become so rich?
- What was Evalyn's passion?
- How did Cartier sell Evalyn the Hope Diamond?
- How did Evalyn make the Hope Diamond so famous?

Now download a couple of photos of Evalyn and describe them to your class. Now that you know more about Evalyn and the Hope Diamond, say why you believe or do not believe in the curse.



James Dean's Car

PET 2 Comprehension

Decide if each statement below is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, mark A. If it is not correct, mark B.

- 1 James Dean is not very famous anymore.
- 2 James Dean's early death contributed to his fame.
- 3 George Barris bought The Little Bastard because he wanted to drive it in car races.
- 4 Two doctors died because they drove the Little Bastard.
- 5 The California Highway Patrol used the Little Bastard to show people what can happen if you do not drive carefully.
- 6 We do not know for certain what finally happened to the Little Bastard.

1 ... 2 ... 3 ... 4 ... 5 ... 6 ...

3 Write about it

Imagine you are the actor Alec Guinness and write a story of about 100 words about the time you saw James Dean's car. Your story must begin with this sentence:

I felt a strange sensation when I saw James Dean's new racing car.

Include the following information

- What you said to James Dean
- What happened to him and his car
- How he reacted
- Your opinion of this strange incident

T: GRADE 5

4 Topic – Cars and bicycles

James Dean, like many young men all over the world, loved fast cars. But will cars always be in our future? Discuss the following points with your partner.

- a. What problems do cars create?
- b. Will cars continue to be important for transporting people?
- c. How do you think cars will change? Will there be new kinds of fuel or new rules for driving?

PET 5 Speaking

With a partner, look at the pictures below. Do they represent good or bad luck? Discuss the meaning of 'superstition' with your partner. Now find out if your partner believes in any superstitions.



Before you read

PET 1 Listening

Look at the six sentences below. Listen to the beginning of Part Six. You will hear about a strange creature called the Abominable Snowman, or Yeti. Decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, put a tick (✓) in the box under A for YES. If it is not correct, put a tick (✓) in the box under B for NO.

- The Abominable Snowman lives in the Himalayas.
- Scientists are certain the Abominable Snowman exists.
- The Abominable Snowman is about 4 metres tall.
- The Abominable Snowman walks on four feet.
- Yeti is another name for the Abominable Snowman.
- Zoologists first heard about the Abominable Snowman in 1842.

A	B
YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>


Abominable Snowman



PART SIX

The Abominable Snowman

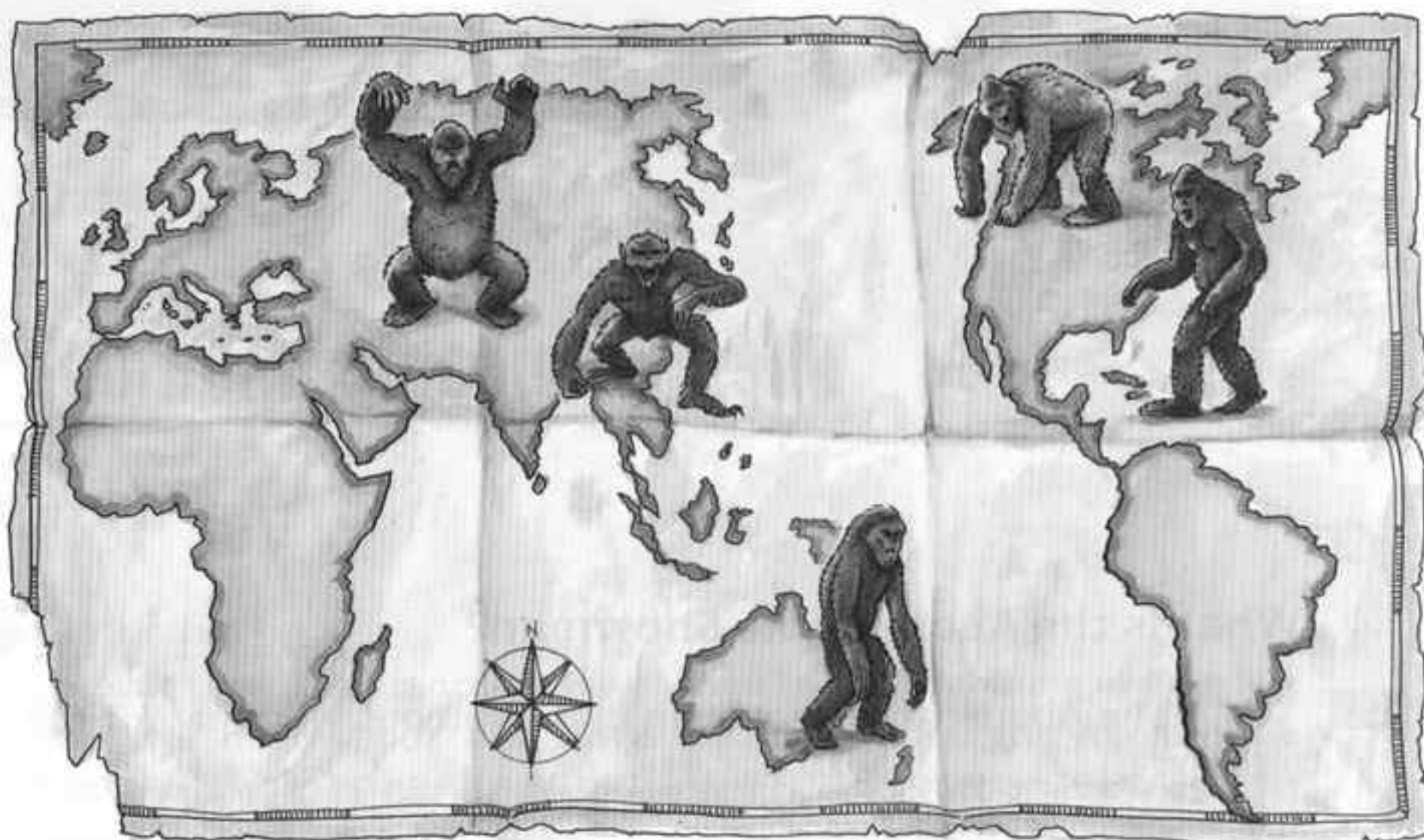
What is the Abominable Snowman?

 **T**he Abominable Snowman is the famous wild man of the Himalayas. But is it simply a legend or is it real? Scientists have done extensive research on the Abominable Snowman, but they still cannot prove that it really exists. Could it be the descendant of a prehistoric creature, or is it just a myth?

Similar creatures have been seen hundreds of times in the United States, Canada and Australia as well as Asia. The Abominable Snowman has different names around the world, as you can see from the table on page 68.

Great Mysteries of Our World

PLACE	NAME
Himalayas:	Yeti
China:	Wildman
United States:	Bigfoot
Canada:	Sasquatch (Native American name)
Australia:	Yowie (Aboriginal name)



Here is a description of the Abominable Snowman:

- 1 It is about 2.5 metres tall.
- 2 It looks like a big, primitive man with a lot of reddish-brown hair.
- 3 It walks on two feet.
- 4 Its facial features are half human and half ape.¹
- 5 It has a strong smell.
- 6 It usually lives in high mountains or in big forests.

1. **ape** : an animal such as a gorilla.

The Yeti

Zoologists first heard about the Yeti, or Abominable Snowman, in 1832, when the English explorer B. H. Hodgson wrote about his experiences in Nepal. He said that one day in the mountains his Sherpas¹ had seen a strange creature with long, dark hair all over its body. They thought it was a demon and ran away in terror. The Sherpas believe that the Yeti exists and that it carries humans away.

About fifty years later, a British doctor who worked with the Indian Army Medical Corps found giant footprints at an altitude of 5,000 metres in the Himalayas. 'They must be the footprints of a Yeti!' his guide told him.

In 1921 a British expedition led by Colonel C. K. Howard-Bury was attempting to climb Mt Everest. When the members of the expedition reached 5,200 metres, they saw a group of dark creatures in the mountains above them. They continued climbing and discovered huge footprints. The Sherpas immediately said that they were the footprints of the Yeti or Metokangmi. The Tibetan word Metokangmi means 'disgusting snowman', but a journalist used the term 'Abominable Snowman' in a newspaper article, and the term remained. After this the legend was born, and people everywhere wanted to know more.

Eric Shipton, a well-known mountain climber, photographed some Yeti footprints while on an expedition in Nepal in 1951. The photographs showed a strange footprint that was 33 centimetres long.

1. **Sherpas** : natives of the Himalayas; some Sherpas work for mountain expeditions.

In 1953 Sir Edmund Hillary, the first man to climb Mt Everest, found giant footprints on his way to the top. 'We discovered many tracks on the Ripimu Glacier at 18,000 and 19,000 feet ¹ and our Sherpas were quite convinced that they belonged to the Yeti,' he reported. Hillary returned to Everest on several occasions to look for the Yeti, but without success. In 1960 he brought back two skins and a scalp ² from Nepal, which he said was from the top half of the skull of a Yeti. But scientists said that the skins and the scalp belonged to a mountain goat which lives in the area.

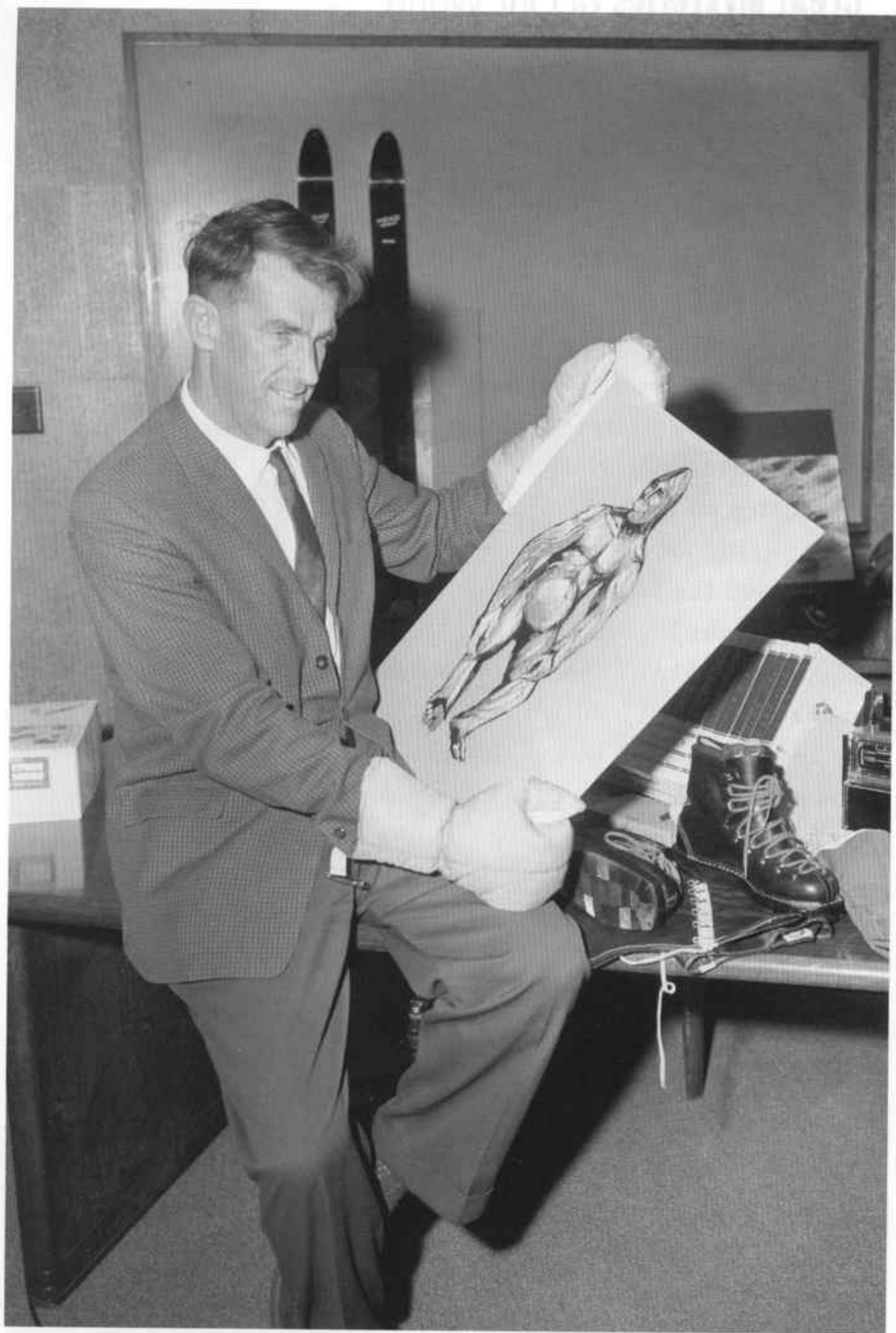
Scientists and explorers began to show a serious interest in the mystery of the Abominable Snowman. In 1958 the Soviet Academy of Sciences sent a group of scientists to different parts of Asia where Yetis had been seen. After some time they concluded that some kind of primitive creature lives in the high mountains of Asia.

The Wildman

The Chinese call the Abominable Snowman the Wildman. In 1977 China's Committee for Research on Strange and Rare Creatures sent a group of scientists on a year-long expedition to discover the mystery of the Wildman. The scientists found some reddish hairs that they said belonged to it. The hairs were studied under an electronic microscope. According to one report, half of the samples of hair were found to be different from human hair, and they did not correspond to any animal living in China.

The Chinese scientists concluded that the Wildman exists, but

1. **18,000 and 19,000 feet** : about 5500-5800 metres (1 foot = 0.30m).
2. **scalp** : the skin under the hair on your head.



Sir Edmund Hillary holding a drawing of the Abominable Snowman (1960).

not all scientists agree. Some believe that the Wildman is a descendant of a great ape known as *Gigantopithecus*, which lived in southern China 500,000 years ago.

Bigfoot

In North America the legend of Bigfoot or Sasquatch continues to interest many people. People say they have seen these creatures on hundreds of different occasions.

Centuries ago, Native Americans painted images of the Sasquatch on their totem poles and masks. It seems they knew of the existence of this creature.

In 1893 the famous American President Theodore Roosevelt wrote about Bigfoot in his book *The Wilderness Hunter*. He reported that two hunters had seen the creature and described it as having 'a great body with a strong wild beast odour'.

In 1958 a builder was working on a new home near Bluff Creek in northern California. Suddenly he saw a strange hairy creature standing in front of him. The creature did not want to hurt him. It was only very curious and followed him around. After some time the builder gave the creature a big piece of chocolate and it finally left.

At Bluff Creek in 1967 Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin, two mountain rangers,¹ were riding in the forest. Suddenly they saw a large creature that looked like a Bigfoot. Roger Patterson was able to film the hairy creature, and his film became famous all over the world. He also took photographs of the creature's huge

1. **rangers** : people who look after forests, national parks and their wild animals.



The Bigfoot filmed by Bob Gimlin and Roger Patterson (October 1967).

footprints, which measured about 30 centimetres.

Scientists and other experts have studied Patterson's film and some say it is a fake.¹ But others disagree. Professor Grover Krantz, an anthropologist from Washington State University, believes the Bigfoot exists and thinks the film is authentic.

In 1982 Forest Ranger Paul Freeman, who worked in Washington state's Umatilla National Forest, saw a 2.6 metre creature and was able to photograph its footprints. Scientists who studied the footprints said that they did not belong to a bear or to another animal. Therefore, it is possible that they belonged to an unknown creature — a Bigfoot.

The Yowie

In Australia the Bigfoot is called the Yowie. It is very similar to the Bigfoot, with a height of around 2.5 metres and thick black or brown hair all over its body. According to legends told by the early Aboriginal people, the Yowie can be found in South-eastern, Central and Northern Australia.

The first written reports of the Yowie go back to the 1800s, when a story about the creature appeared in an Australian newspaper. It described how several people had seen a large, ape-like animal taller than a man.

In 1971 a Royal Australian Air Force helicopter landed on top of the remote Sentinel Mountain with a team of explorers. Much to their surprise, they discovered fresh footprints in the earth. They were much larger than human footprints, in a place where no human could possibly be present.

1. **fake** : not authentic, an imitation.

In May 1981 three young people saw two Yowies in the hills of New South Wales. They were about 1.5 metres tall, walked on two feet, and their body was covered with long brown hair.

Australian scientists confirmed that about 10,000 years ago primitive humans lived in the Kow Swamp area north of Melbourne, and perhaps some survived. Could the Yowie be one of them?

A Mystery Explained?

Today a special branch of science studies animals that have not yet been discovered. It is called cryptozoology (from the Greek word 'kryptos' meaning 'hidden'). Cryptozoologists collect reports from people who have seen the unknown animal, create a picture of it, and then try to find it in nature.

In the past, cryptozoologists have discovered strange animals that no one believed existed, such as the pygmy hippopotamus and the giant panda. And what about the Komodo dragon, which is 3.6 metres long, or the Chacoan peccary, a pig-like creature that scientists thought had died 2 million years ago? These animals were discovered in the twentieth century.

Will the Abominable Snowman belong to this group of animals one day? Will we ever know what is hiding in the mountains?

Go back to the text

1 Comprehension

Match the phrases in columns A and B to make correct sentences.

A

1. ☐ The Sherpas working with B. H. Hodgson ran away in horror
2. ☐ The Tibetans call the strange half-human and half-ape creature Metokangmi
3. ☐ After climbing Mt Everest, Sir Edmund Hillary went back to the Himalayas a number of times
4. ☐ The Chinese scientists concluded that the Wildman exists
5. ☐ The creature President Roosevelt described in his book was probably a Bigfoot
6. ☐ Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin became famous
7. ☐ It is possible that Paul Freeman discovered Bigfoot footprints
8. ☐ The explorers who landed on Sentinel Mountain were surprised to see footprints
9. ☐ Maybe cryptozoologists will find a Yeti

B

- a. because they were able to film a Bigfoot.
- b. because no human could possibly be present there.
- c. because it has a bad odour.
- d. because the hairs they found did not belong to humans or any other animal that lives in China.
- e. because they have found other strange animals in the past that nobody thought existed.
- f. because it was large and had a strong odour.
- g. because they thought they had seen a demon.
- h. because he wanted to look for the Yeti.
- i. because scientists say they were not made by a bear or any other animal.

PET 2 Read the text below and choose the correct word for each space. For each question, mark the letter next to the correct word – A, B, C or D.

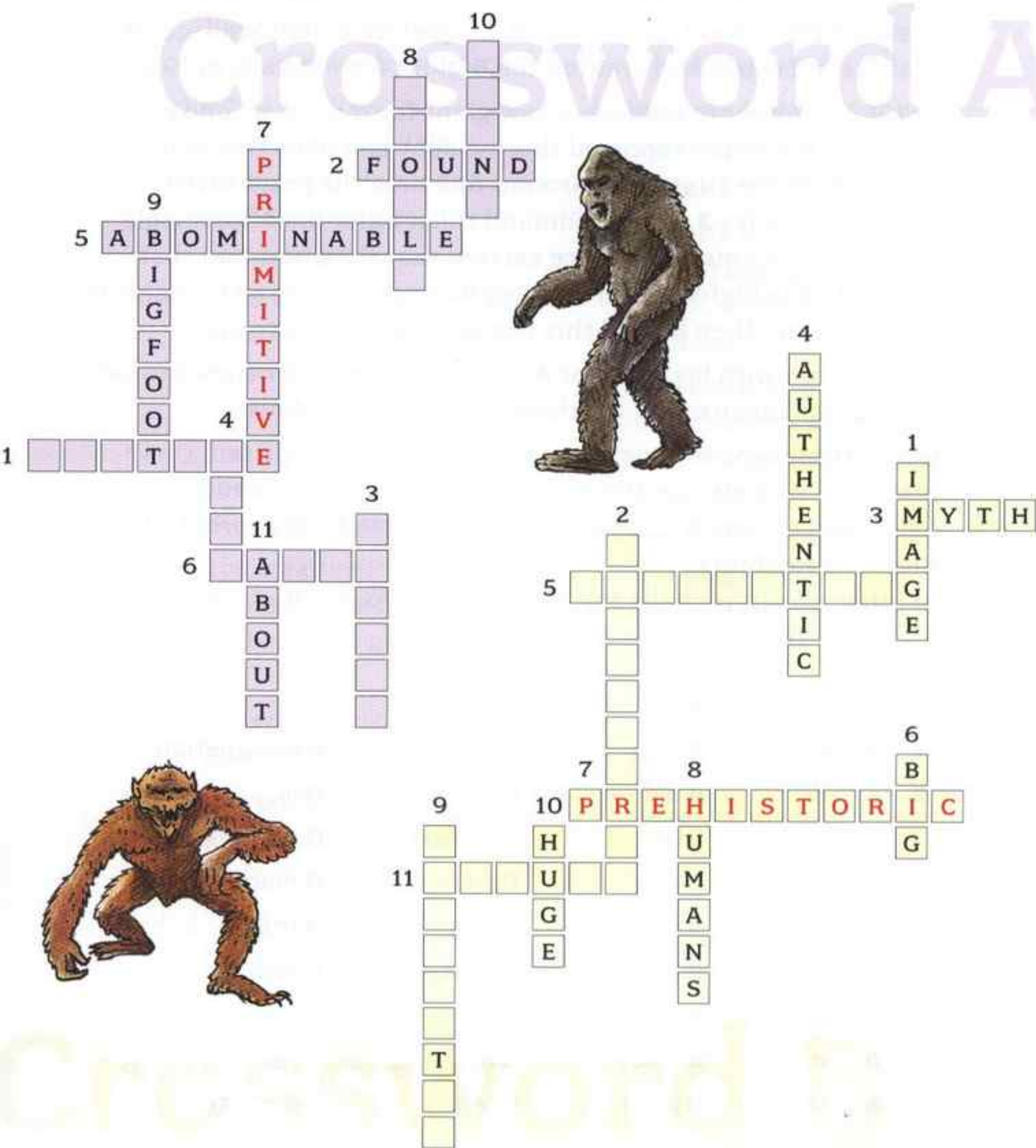
Bigfoot is dead

On ^B 5 December 2002 a newspaper in Seattle, Washington, published an article with the 1 'Bigfoot is Dead'. The article described the life of a man who 2 just died, Ray Wallace. Mr Wallace, it seems, had created the Bigfoot legend back in 1958. In 1958 a worker in California saw giant footprints around his truck. A newspaper reported this incident and used the term 'Bigfoot' for the first time. Around this time the press often published stories 3 Sir Edmund Hillary and the Abominable Snowman. So Americans were excited that they now had their own Yeti, the Bigfoot. In truth, Ray had asked a friend to make 34 cm-long feet. Then he and this friend made the footprints. Ray had fun with his trick for 4 years. He even offered to sell a Texas millionaire 5 Bigfoot for one million dollars. 6, those who believe 7 Bigfoot are not surprised. One professor who studies the American Yeti said, 'These rumours have been around 8 years. We have lots of other proof of Bigfoot's existence.' In other words, perhaps the creator of Bigfoot is 9, but Bigfoot is 10 with us.

- | | | | | |
|----|------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| 0 | A at | B on | C in | D by |
| 1 | A name | B title | C label | D designation |
| 2 | A had | B did | C was | D is |
| 3 | A about | B of | C around | D relating |
| 4 | A much | B lots | C plenty | D many |
| 5 | A a | B the | C this | D that |
| 6 | A Although | B However | C Though | D Except |
| 7 | A in | B of | C from | D for |
| 8 | A from | B since | C by | D for |
| 9 | A away | B gone | C left | D departed |
| 10 | A now | B still | C already | D yet |

3 Vocabulary – synonym crosswords

Here are two crossword puzzles. The missing words in Crossword A are all synonyms of the words in crossword B, and vice versa. Complete the puzzle by finding the synonyms for each set of corresponding numbers. One has been done for you.



4 Speaking

Look at pictures 1 and 2 below. Working in pairs, ask and answer the following questions.

Student A: ask your partner about picture 1.

What can he/she see? Where does he/she think this sign is?

How does the sign make him/her feel? (e.g. scared, amused).

Student B: ask your partner about picture 2.

What does he/she think this film is about? Does he/she want to see this film?

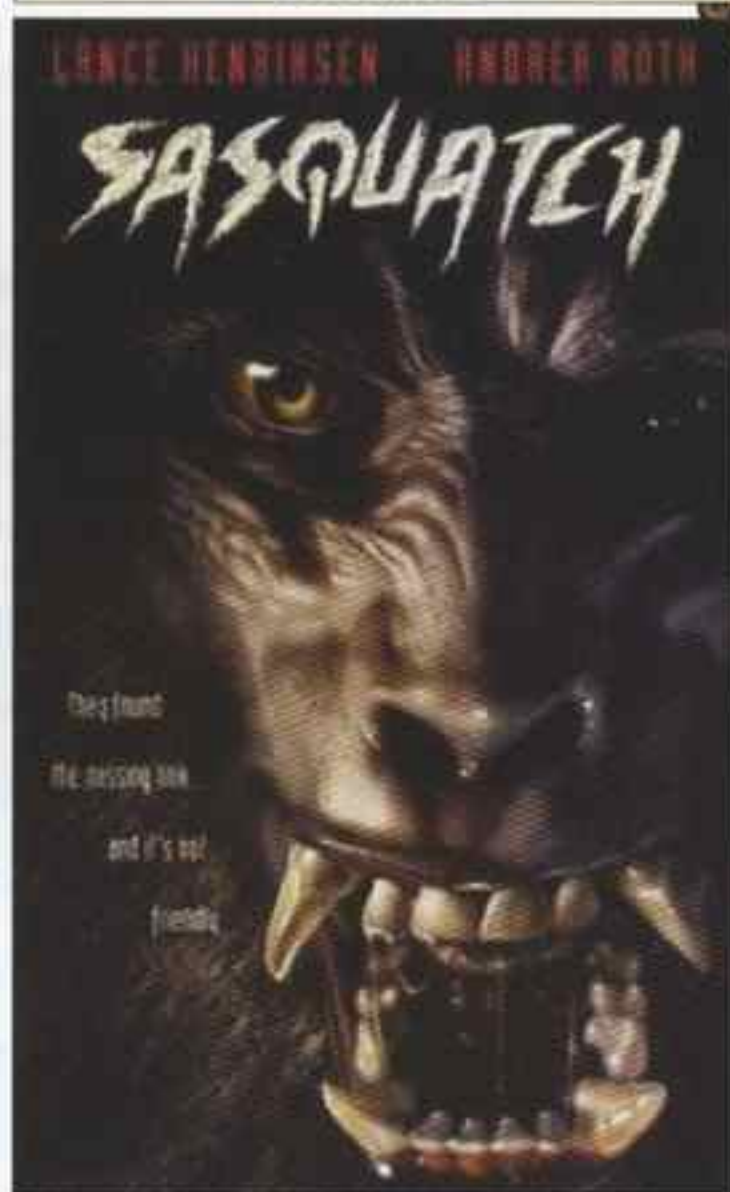
How does he/she usually react to this type of film? (e.g. laugh, feel bored, scared).

Now change roles.

Picture 1



Picture 2



Before you read

1 Listening

Listen to the beginning of Part Seven.

You will hear about Stonehenge, a famous prehistoric stone monument located on Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire, England.

For each question, fill in the missing information in the numbered spaces.

Its dimensions

The size of the monument is impressive: the largest stones weigh 1 tons and are longer than 2 metres.

Its age

Some parts of Stonehenge are older than the 3 of Egypt.

Historians and archaeologists believe that Stonehenge was built in 4 main phases.

Phase I

Around 3000 BC, ancient people dug a hole in the shape of a 5 and with the earth from this hole, they made a small hill in the centre.

In the seventeenth century, a historian discovered a ring of 6 holes around this hill. Now scientists believe that Stonehenge was originally built of 7 and not of stone.

Its early use

They also believe that it was first used as a 8 because human bones have been found there.



PART SEVEN

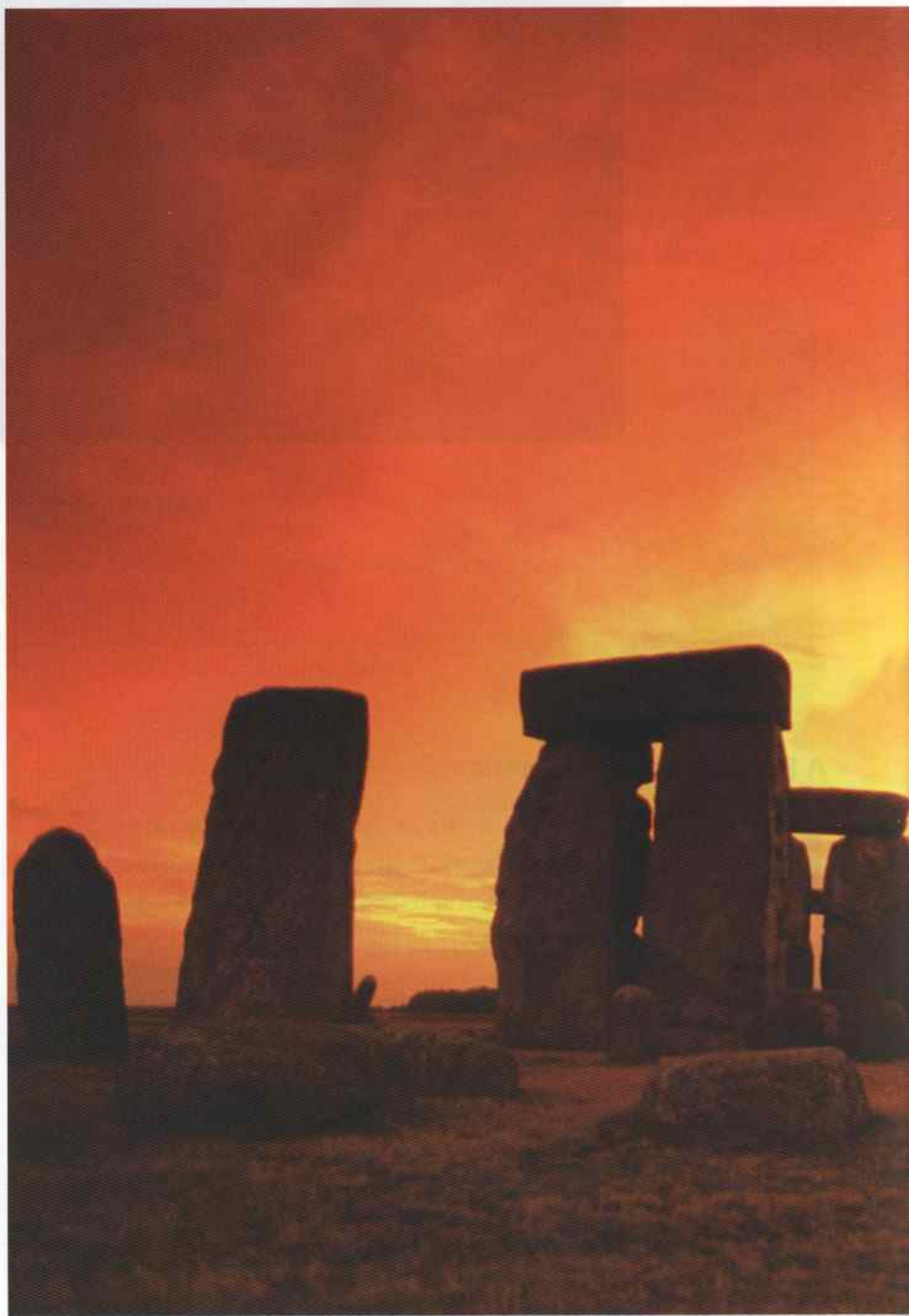
Stonehenge

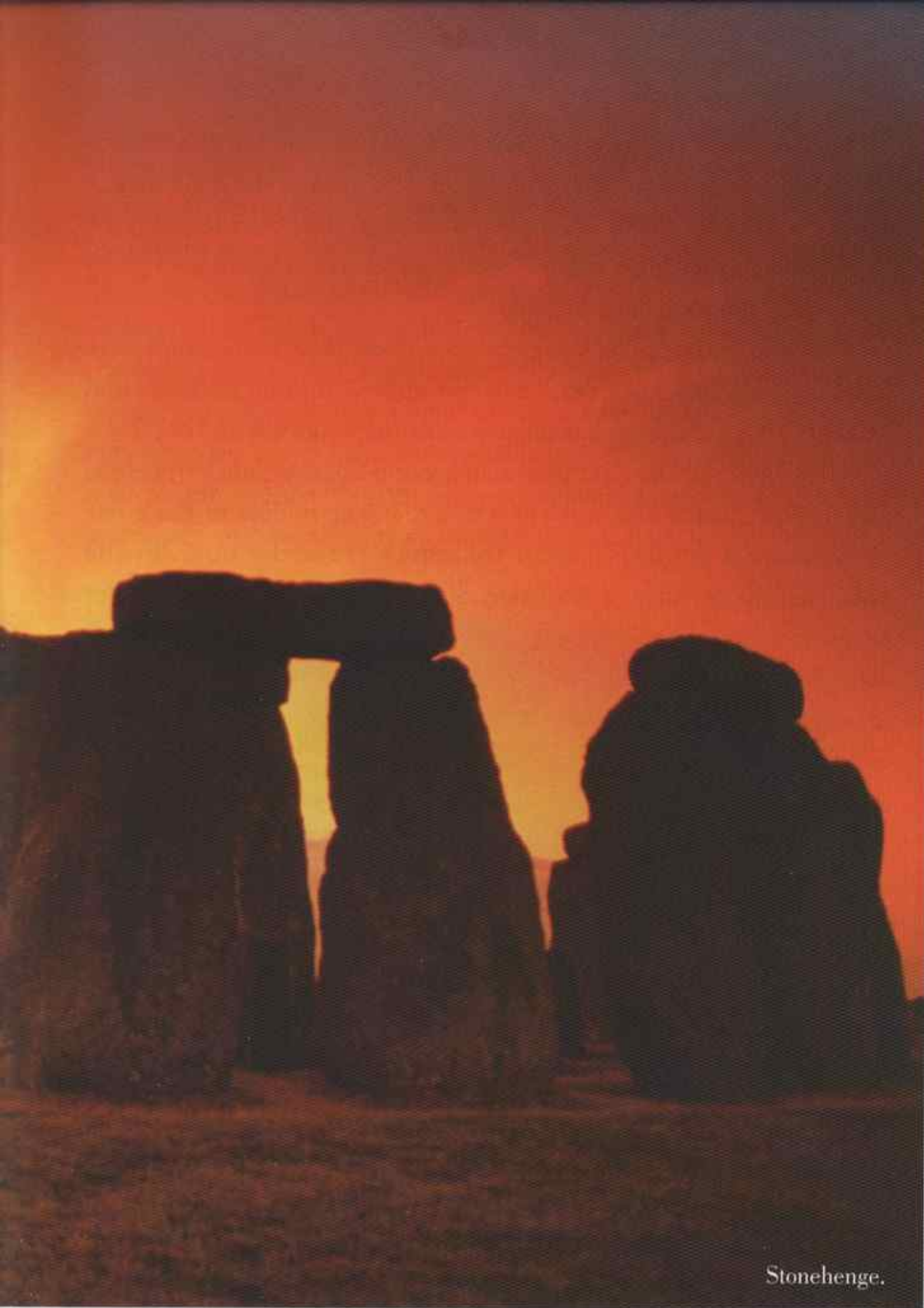
A Prehistoric Monument



One of prehistory's most amazing monuments is Stonehenge, on Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire, England. This colossal monument is made of enormous blocks of stone, and their size is impressive — the largest stones weigh about 50 tons and measure more than 9 metres in length!

Thousands of years have passed since the first blocks of stone were brought to Salisbury Plain, but the origins and the meaning of Stonehenge remain a puzzling mystery. Through the centuries no one has ever been able to reveal the mysteries hidden in these gigantic blocks of stone. What are they and, more importantly, why was Stonehenge built? What was its true purpose?





Stonehenge.

The Construction

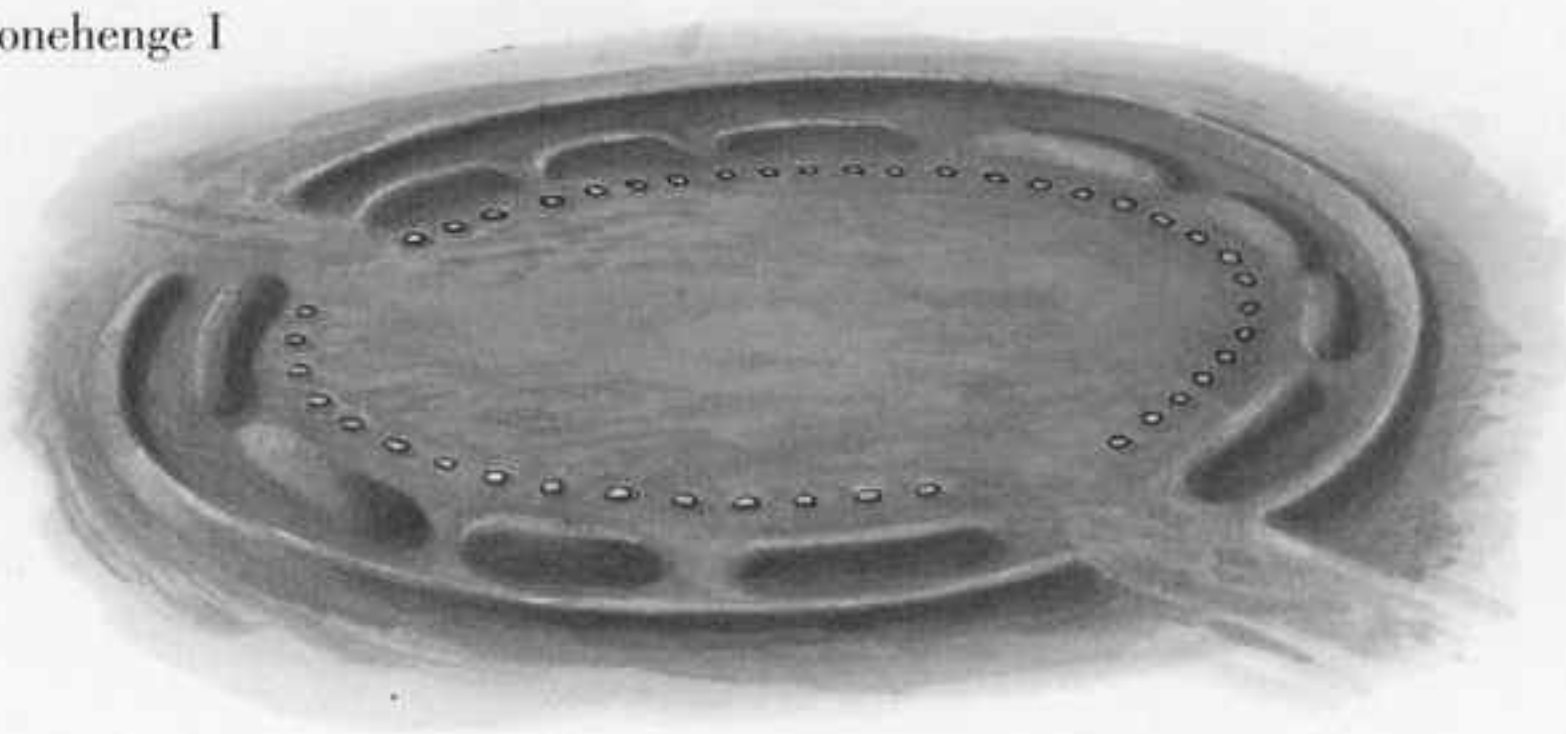
How old is Stonehenge? For centuries no one knew its exact age, but with the invention of radiocarbon dating,¹ scientists were able to tell us that the oldest parts of Stonehenge were built around 5,000 years ago. This makes them older than the pyramids of Egypt.

Historians and archaeologists now think that Stonehenge was built in three main phases, between approximately 3000 BC and 1100 BC. They refer to these phases as Stonehenge I, II and III.

At the start of the first phase, in around 3000 BC, ancient people dug a large hole in the form of a circle. In the middle of the circle they made a small hill with the earth from the hole. In the seventeenth century, a historian discovered a ring of 56 smaller holes around the hill. Experts believe that wooden posts — long, straight pieces of wood — were once placed there. This means that Stonehenge was once made of wood instead of stones. But why was Stonehenge built? Some historians think that it was used as a cemetery because human bones have been found there.



Stonehenge I

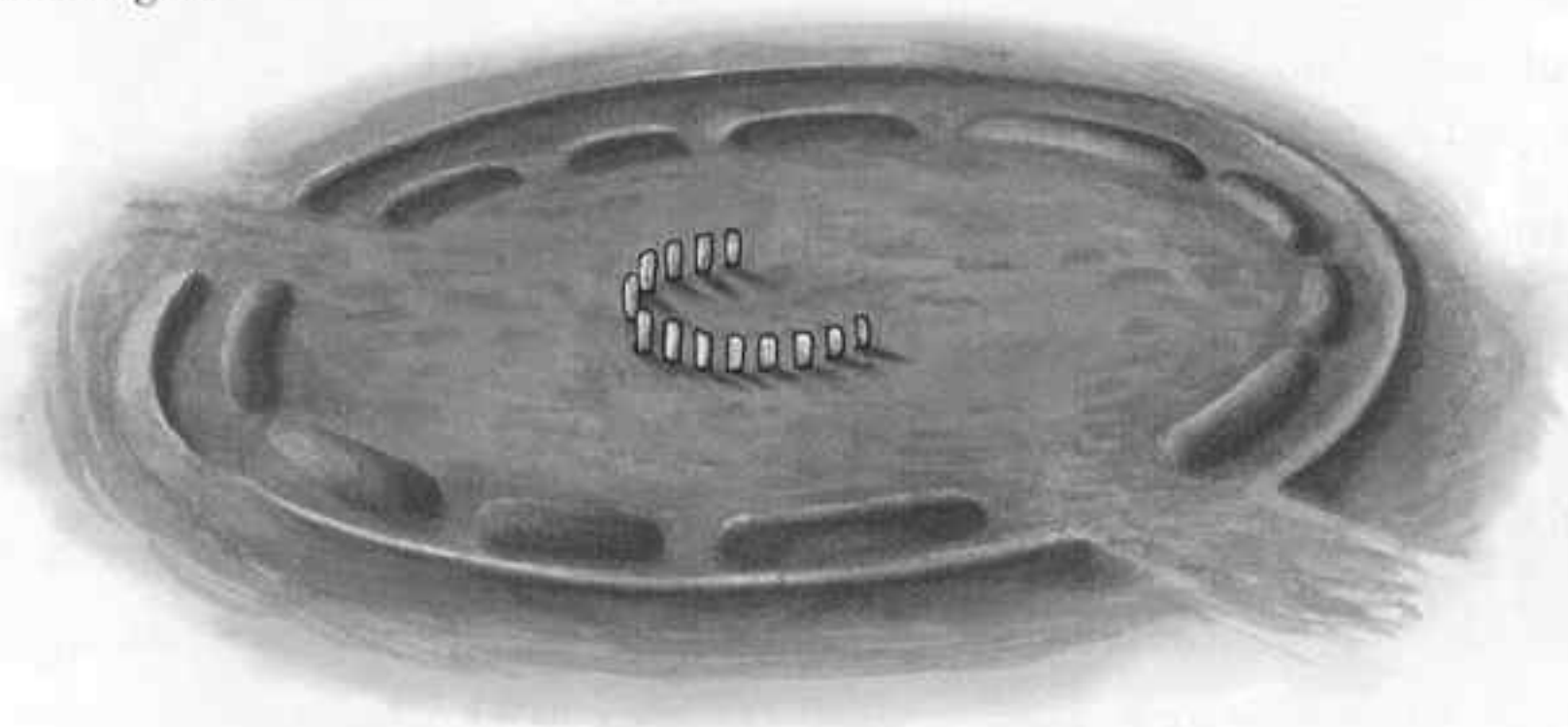


1. **radiocarbon dating** : a scientific procedure used to discover the age of objects.

The second phase of Stonehenge began in around 2100 BC — before the wheel was invented and over 2,000 years before the Romans came to Britain. Stonehenge was rebuilt using around 80 blocks of stone, each weighing about 4 tons. Archaeologists know that these stones (called 'bluestones') came from the mountains of South Wales, about 320 kilometres away.

One of the mysteries of Stonehenge is how people transported the bluestones to Salisbury Plain. Historians now believe that the stones were pulled down to the sea by a large group of people and moved up the River Avon on special rafts.¹ Finally they were pulled over land to the site. In 2000 a group of people tried to recreate the journey up the river, but they found it impossible!

Stonehenge II



The third phase of Stonehenge began in around 2000 BC. For some mysterious reason, the early Bronze Age people decided to rearrange the bluestones to form the circle we see today. They added new, even larger stones to form structures called trilithons (two tall stones with a third across the top). The new stones

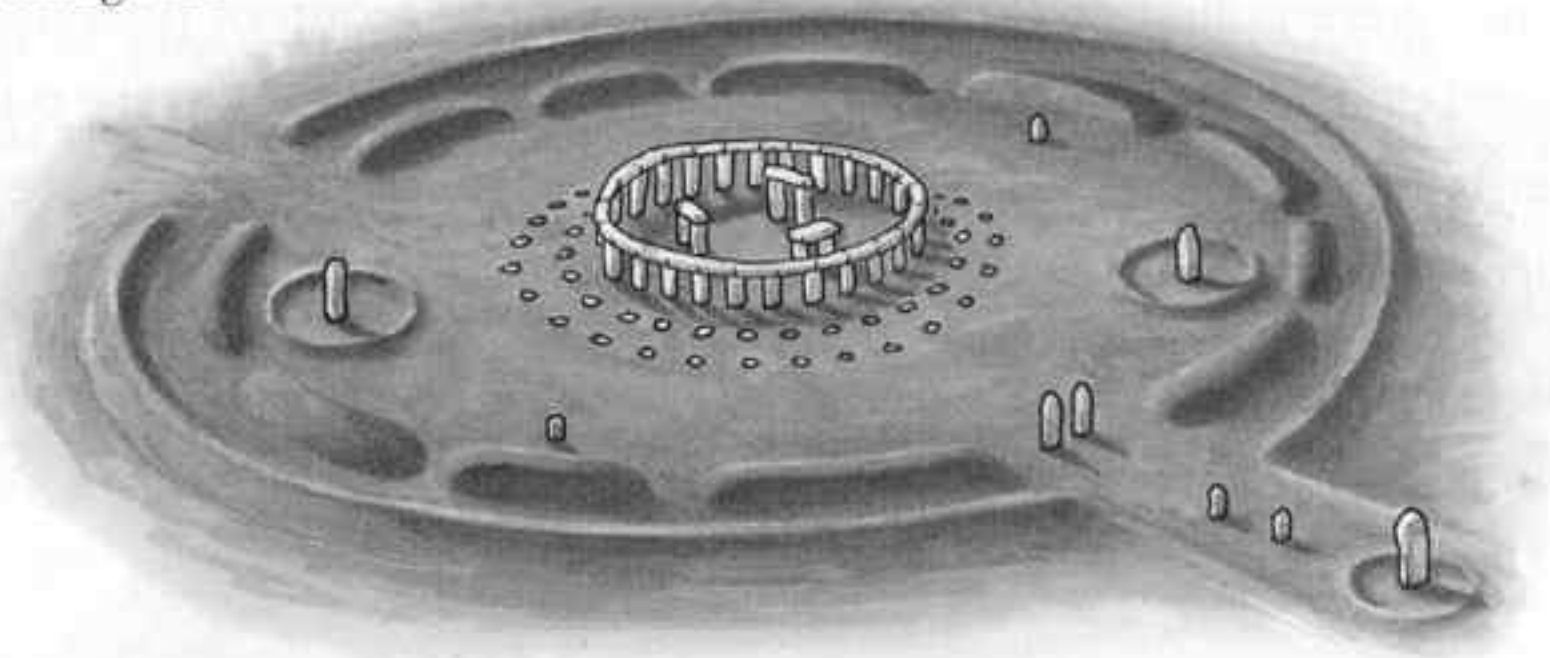
1. **rafts** : wooden platforms used as a boat.

Great Mysteries of Our World

weighed an incredible 50 tons each, and they were pulled to Stonehenge from an area over 30 kilometres away. No one knows exactly how many people were involved in this incredible journey, or how they built the trilithons.

Today about half of the original monument survives. Over the years some stones have fallen and others have been taken away and used for building.

Stonehenge III



A Mystery Explained?

Why did these primitive people devote so much time and energy to this colossal monument? There is no real answer. But archaeologists and historians agree that Stonehenge was a very important place and that it influenced the lives of the population.

What was its real purpose? What took place at Stonehenge? Was it a primitive astronomical observatory or was it connected with the ancient Celtic religion, Druidism? There have been many theories over the centuries.

The 12th-century writer, Geoffrey of Monmouth, believed that Stonehenge was built by giants. An old local legend says



A Druid ceremony at Stonehenge.

Great Mysteries of Our World

that the huge stones were magically brought from Ireland by Merlin, the wizard at King Arthur's court.

Today many experts believe that Stonehenge was built as an observatory or calendar. The British astronomer Sir Norman Lockyer first suggested this in 1901, but many scholars did not agree with him. In 1963 another astronomer, Gerald Hawkins, discovered that the important stones point to different positions of the sun or moon. He concluded that Stonehenge was an observatory and also a kind of primitive computer. He said that it predicted eclipses and the summer and winter solstices.¹

But there are still many uncertainties. How did the primitive people who built Stonehenge know where to put the stones? How could they calculate the movements of the sun and moon without the knowledge we have today?

Other people strongly believe that Stonehenge was a pagan temple. They think it was used by the Druids, the ancient Celtic priests, for religious worship, rituals and sacrifices. Today modern Druids have permission to meet at Stonehenge to celebrate the summer and winter solstices.

Some people even believe that aliens from another world were involved in the construction of Stonehenge.

Will anyone ever find the right answer to the mystery?

1. **summer and winter solstices** : the days of the year with the most and least hours of daylight.

Go back to the text

1 Question words

Write questions for the statements below using, *where, how much, how old, how long* and *how far*.

- a. About fifty tons.
- b. More than nine metres.
- c. On Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire.
- d. Almost five thousand years old.
- e. The mountains of South Wales.
- f. About 320 kilometres.
- g. Only about half of the original monument survives.

2 Complete the chart about the different phases of the construction of Stonehenge.

	What?	When?
Phase I		Around 3000 BC
Phase II	They rebuilt Stonehenge using about 80 blocks of stone	
Phase III		

3 Vocabulary

Find the odd-word-out, then say why it is the odd-word-out.

- a. pyramids ~~colossal~~ trilithons monuments
'colossal' is an adjective, the other three are nouns.
- b. priests rafts Druids Celts
.....
- c. solstice century summer legend
.....
- d. aliens giants experts wizards
.....

e. kilometre meter ton journey

.....

f. temple observatory eclipse pyramid

.....

g. wheel bronze stone wood

.....

h. incredible enormous amazing impressive

.....

i. archaeologists Romans historians astronomers

.....

j. plain hill mountain river

.....

k. Egypt Salisbury Wales Ireland

.....

PET 4 Write about it

Billy Kirby is from London. He reads about Stonehenge and becomes fascinated by this amazing, mysterious monument. He drives to Wiltshire to see it but when he arrives he sees that:

- Hundreds of noisy tourists are there
- People are selling pictures, postcards, calendars and other souvenirs
- Two major roads are near the monument
- You cannot go near the monument itself

Pretend you are Bill Kirby and write a story in about 100 words about the time you visited Stonehenge. Say exactly why you were fascinated by Stonehenge and end your story saying how you think the situation can be improved. Your story must begin with this sentence:

I have never been so disappointed in all my life.

.....

.....

.....

INTERNET PROJECT

Hetty Pegler's Tump and other prehistoric monuments

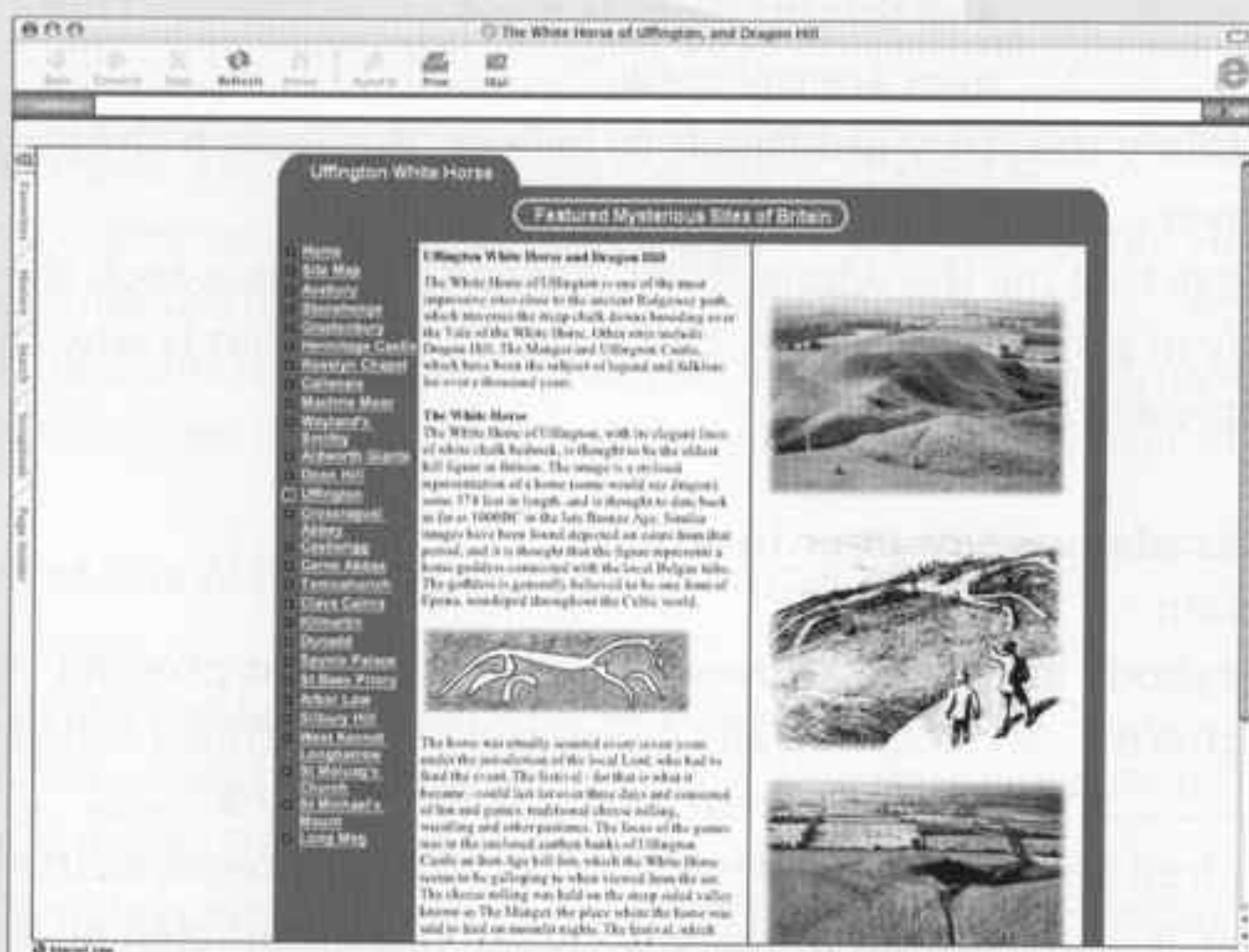
Stonehenge is perhaps the most famous prehistoric monument in the United Kingdom, but it is certainly not the only one. In fact there are hundreds and hundreds of them. Follow the instructions on page 19 to find the websites you need. Then choose two of the prehistoric sites below and find out:

- ▶ where they are
- ▶ when they were made
- ▶ who made them
- ▶ any local legends concerning them

Download some pictures of them and then present the information you have collected to your class.

Some prehistoric monuments in the UK

- ▶ Dragon Hill
- ▶ Uffington White Horse
- ▶ Wayland's Smithy
- ▶ Beaghmore Stone Circle
- ▶ Avebury Stone Circle
- ▶ Hetty Pegler's Tump



- 1 In the United States and the United Kingdom there are newspapers that print strange news stories about film stars, aliens, Bigfoot, Nostradamus, strange curses and ghost ships. Are their stories true? Perhaps not, but they are certainly entertaining! Here is an example of one of those newspapers. Fill in the blanks with what you have learned from this book.

Finally, one of these stories is true. Can you guess which one it is?

THE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINER

March 7, 2010

A Fisherman solves the mystery of the *Mary Celeste*

Pennsylvania

In 1 a ship sailing near the Azores saw an abandoned ship, the *Mary Celeste*. The story of the *Mary Celeste* has been a mystery until now. Joseph Gropp, a retired cook from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, saw the lifeboat of the *Mary Celeste* last week.

'I was on holiday, and I went out in my little boat to fish. I knew that something was strange. The people in the lifeboat wore old clothes, just like in a film,' reported Mr Gropp.

'A man in the boat said he was Benjamin Briggs, the 2 of the *Mary Celeste*. He stood up and said, "This woman is my 3 and this little girl is my 4 These 5 men are my crew.'"

Certainly the story is difficult to believe. But Joseph Gropp has the answer.

'Briggs told me the whole story. Aliens from Venus took them all away in a space ship. They can travel in time. That is why these people are still alive!'

B Nostradamus saw your future

London

Everybody knows about Nostradamus, the great prophet born in southern 1 His collection of predictions called the 2 have fascinated people for nearly 3 hundred years. Many believe that his strange poems written in Latin, 4 , Greek and Italian have predicted all the great events of history from the Great Fire of 5 to the

6 of American presidents.

Now, Judy Klinger, a hairdresser from south London, says that Nostradamus predicted everybody's future. 'All of our lives are in Nostradamus' great book. If you know how to read it, you can find the life of every single person on earth!' says Ms Klinger.

Possible or not, many people believe her. Her prediction service is a huge success, and for just £250 anybody can now know what Nostradamus said about his or her future.

C STUDYING HISTORY CAN BE DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEALTH

Perth

Many students do not like studying history, but can it really be dangerous? Well, the headmaster of the Joseph Banks Middle School in Perth, Australia, says that it is.

When the history teacher, Mr Groans, taught his students about the pharaohs of ancient Egypt, strange things happened when he began to talk about King Tutankhamun's tomb.

'I began to explain to my students how an Englishman named 1 discovered the tomb of King Tut in the Valley of the 2 in Egypt, when I heard a strange sound. Suddenly, the room was full of thousands of mosquitoes!'

The next time Mr Groans started the same lesson, the horrible insects appeared again.

'Then I remembered the curse!' says Mr Groans. 'It said that death comes on 3 to anyone who enters the tomb of the pharaoh, and I remembered the death of Lord 4, the man who sponsored the discovery of King Tut's tomb. He died of an infected mosquito 5'

Maybe this is all just silly superstitions, but the headmaster took no chances: no more Egyptian history for his second-year students.

D FILM CREW DISAPPEARS IN BERMUDA TRIANGLE

Florida

The Bermuda Triangle, that famous area of the 1 Ocean, has claimed more victims — this time the entire film crew of a major Hollywood studio.

'The crew were on several boats off the coast of Florida, filming our new thriller based on the story of Flight 19, when we lost radio

contact with them,' says Carrie De Ceitt of Trident Studios.

The real Flight 19 was a group of five US 2 planes that took off on 5 December 3 from Fort Lauderdale in 4, but never returned.

Many believe that Trident has invented the whole story to publicise their new film.

'That is absurd,' says Ms De Ceitt. 'We have too much respect for the memory of Charles Taylor, the 5 of the flight. By the way, the great star, Harry Pip, will play Taylor. Of course, we must first find another film crew.'

E The Little Bastard returns as a toaster

California

The Little Bastard, the famous 1 car of legendary film actor, James 2, has caused a terrible house fire.

The Little Bastard disappeared back in 1960, or so we thought.

'My toaster exploded and caused a fire in my house,' says Ms Johnston. 'Then I discovered that the company made its toasters with metal recycled from old cars. I know for certain that it used a part of the Little Bastard! I'm going to take legal action!'

Legal experts do not think Ms Johnston has a good case, but Ms Johnston is not worried.

'James did not believe the British 3 Alec Guinness, and the Toasty Toaster Company does not believe me. But they'll see!'

F 'I married a Bigfoot'

Washington State

Constance Creeley married a Bigfoot, but now she wants a divorce. Her husband denies that he is a Bigfoot.

'Well, of course he says he isn't a Bigfoot! But he's very hairy and has a disgusting animal 1 And his feet are huge!'

Bigfoots or 2, as these monsters are called in Canada, have been filmed many times. The great mountain climber, Sir Edmund 3, even found some fur of a 4, as Bigfoot is called in the Himalayas, but this is the first time anybody has ever married one!

Mr Creeley has promised to shave more and take more showers in the future, but he can do nothing about the size of his feet.

The Creeleys' eight-year-old son does not seem upset by the news. 'It's great!' the child told reporters. 'All the kids in my class are jealous! I don't know why Mum is so angry.'

G An army of 5000 Druids ready to defend Stonehenge

Wiltshire

Britain's most famous prehistoric monument has become the object of intense debate. The government has plans for a 2-kilometre-long tunnel under Stonehenge. Supporters of the project say the tunnel will improve the traffic situation. But not everyone agrees.

'It's absurd,' says Cynthia Wright, a member of the Save Stonehenge group. 'Stonehenge is more than 1 years old. It is older than the 2 of Egypt. Now, why change it for the car?'

Each summer 3, the longest day of the year, around 30,000 Druids come to celebrate at Stonehenge.

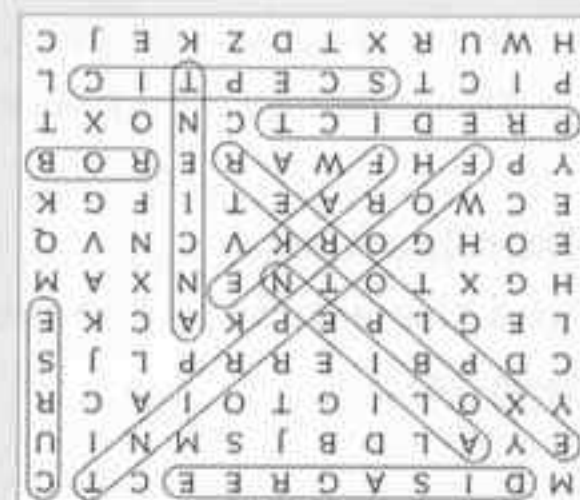
'Some people,' says Herbert Creed, a modern-day Druid, 'believe that Stonehenge was an astronomical 4, but we believe that it was a place sacred to the Druids, the ancient 5 priests. For us the entire earth is sacred, but this is the most sacred place, and we are ready to fight for it.'

2 Wordsearch

Find the words in the wordsearch below. Use the clues on page 96 to help you.



1. a _ _ _ _ t: very old
2. _ _ _ _ n: a creature from outer space
3. _ _ _ _ p _ _ _ t: the mark left by someone's shoe or foot
4. _ c _ _ _ _ c: a person who doubts or questions something
5. _ _ _ _ g _ _ e: to not have the same opinion
6. _ _ k _ : not real
7. _ _ r s _ : an object, event or words that cause evil or hurt
8. _ x _ _ _ r _ _ : a person who discovers new places
9. _ _ _ _ _ c t: to say an event will happen in the future
10. _ _ b: to take without permission



1. ancient / 2. alien / 3. footprint / 4. sceptic / 5. disagree / 6. fake / 7. curse / 8. explorer / 9. predict / 10. rob
- 1 1872 2 captain 3 wife 4 daughter 5 seven
- 2 France 2 Centuries 3 500 4 Provencal 5 London 6 assassination
- 3 1 Howard Carter 2 kings 3 wings 4 Carnarvon 5 bite
- 4 1 Atlantic 2 Navy 3 1945 4 Florida 5 leader
- 5 1 sports/Porsche 2 Dean 3 actor
- 6 1 smell 2 sasquatch 3 Hillary 4 Yeti/Metokangmi
- 7 1 5,000 2 pyramids 3 solstice 4 observatory 5 Celtic

KEY TO EXIT TEST

The new structures introduced in this step of our **READING & TRAINING** series are listed below. Any one reader may not always include all of the structures listed, but it will certainly not include any structures from higher steps. Naturally, structures from lower steps will be included. For a complete list of all the structures used over all the six steps, consult the *Black Cat Guide to Graded Readers*, which is also available online at our website, www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it.

Apart from the structural control, we also take great care to grade the vocabulary appropriately for each step.

Step Three B1.2

All the structures used in the previous levels, plus the following:

Verb tenses

Present Perfect Simple: unfinished past with *for* or *since* (duration form)
 Past Perfect Simple: narrative

Verb forms and patterns

Regular verbs and all irregular verbs in current English
 Causative: *have / get* + object + past participle
 Reported questions and orders with *ask* and *tell*

Modal verbs

Would: hypothesis
Would rather: preference
Should (present and future reference): moral obligation
Ought to (present and future reference): moral obligation
Used to: past habits and states

Types of clause

2nd Conditional: *if* + past, *would(n't)*
 Zero, 1st and 2nd conditionals with *unless*
 Non-defining relative clauses with *who* and *where*
 Clauses of result: *so*; *so ... that*; *such ... that*
 Clauses of concession: *although*, *though*

Other

Comparison: *(not) as / so ... as*; *(not) ... enough to*; *too ... to*

Available at Step Three:

- **The £1,000,000 Bank Note** Mark Twain
- **Alien at School** Michelle Brown
- **Bizarre Tales** Peter Foreman
- **The Canterville Ghost** Oscar Wilde
- **Classic Detective Stories**
- **The Diamond as Big as The Ritz** F. Scott Fitzgerald
- **Duck Soup** Peter Foreman
- **Great Mysteries of Our World** Gina D. B. Clemen
- **Gulliver's Travels** Jonathan Swift
- **The Hound of the Baskervilles** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- **Jane Eyre** Charlotte Brontë
- **Julius Caesar** William Shakespeare
- **Lord Arthur Savile's Crime and Other Stories** Oscar Wilde
- **Of Mice and Men** John Steinbeck
- **The Pearl** John Steinbeck
- **The Phantom of the Opera** Gaston Leroux
- **The Prisoner of Zenda** Anthony Hope
- **The Red Badge of Courage** Stephen Crane
- **The Return of Sherlock Holmes** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- **Romeo and Juliet** William Shakespeare
- **The Scarlet Pimpernel** Baroness Orczy
- **Sherlock Holmes Investigates** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- **Stories of Suspense** Nathaniel Hawthorne
- **The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde** Robert Louis Stevenson
- **Tales of the Supernatural**
- **Three Men in a Boat** Jerome K. Jerome
- **Treasure Island** Robert Louis Stevenson
- **Twelfth Night** William Shakespeare
- **The Vegas Hills Carnival Mystery** Michelle Brown

Great Mysteries

of Our World



Some of the world's most puzzling mysteries remain unsolved. Do you think a fast sports car can be evil and kill its drivers? Would you wear a splendid diamond that brings bad luck? Can a 3,300-year-old Egyptian curse still exist? Which of Nostradamus' prophecies were true? Why was the *Mary Celeste* a ghost ship? Find out about the mysterious forces in our world and perhaps you will be able to solve a mystery!

- Wide range of activities covering the four skills
- PET-style activities
- Trinity-style activities (Grade 5)
- Internet projects
- Text recorded in full
- Exit test with answer key



Step One	■	CEFR A2	Exam Level KET
Step Two	■	CEFR B1.1	Exam Preparation PET
Step Three	■	CEFR B1.2	Exam Level PET
Step Four	■	CEFR B2.1	Exam Preparation FCE
Step Five	■	CEFR B2.2	Exam Level FCE
Step Six	■	CEFR C1	Exam Preparation CAE

Gina D. B. Clemen
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