

Ask Andy

Archeozoic Era Goes Way Back

Andy sends a complete, 20-volume set of the World Book Encyclopedia to Donna Namiotho, age 12, of Philadelphia, Pa. for her question:

What was the Archeozoic Era like?

Geologists have divided the age-old diary of the Earth into chapters called eras. The story began some four billion years ago, and four eras have been completed. The fifth, called the Cenozoic Era, began a mere 60 million years ago, and we are still living in it.

The Archeozoic Era takes us back, way back to the beginning of the history of our planet. The experts try to figure out what it was like from the rocks that were formed in those ancient days. But for more than 200 million years, newer and newer rocks have been forming on top of the archeozoic layers. In some places we have to dig a mile or more to reach them. But in other places, nature has made the expert's job easier.

Here and there the Earth's crust humps to form a ridge of mountains, and sometimes the strain causes a deep crack. If the pushing continues, a massive block of rocky layers may be shoved out of place and slide over the other side of the crack. This brings to the surface the minerals that are buried deep below our feet, and here we are likely to find evidence of what the world was like in archeozoic times.

The word archeozoic means early-beginning-of-life, and the rocks indicate that simple forms of life did exist in the Archeozoic Era. There are no true fossils, for the living things were too small to leave behind bones and durable remains. But certain limestones and graphites date back to archeozoic times; and, as a rule, these minerals are formed from the remains of plants and animals.

The Archeozoic Era began more than 2 billion years ago and lasted some 650 million years. Life did not appear on the land until millions of years later. The land was barren. A range of mountains grew, no one knows how high, but they have since been worn down to their roots. They are the Laurentians of eastern Canada, oldest mountains in the world. In some places there were fiery volcanoes, and the remains of

their lava has been found in sedimentary rocks formed in this ancient era.

Our world must have been a dull place indeed, but life was just beginning to stir in the fresh-water seas. There were tiny shell-building sea dwellers, perhaps somewhat like the little fellows that formed limestones in later eras. There were miniature water plants, perhaps somewhat like the single-celled algae that still swarm in our seas.

Andy awards each day a full set of the World Book Encyclopedia for the first question he selects to answer. When a second question is answered a large world globe or atlas is awarded. Questions are accepted from teen-age or less-than-teen-age readers. They should be addressed to the Register-Guard, 975 High St., Eugene. Andy prefers that questions be written on postcards, rather than in letter form.

The rocks formed in archeozoic times have been crushed under the pressure of the massive layers above them. Their muddy shales have long since been turned into hard slates, and much of their limestone has become waxy marble. We call these metamorphic rocks, because they have been metamorphized or altered from their original states.

Andy sends a Hammond's Library World Atlas to Kathleen Nelligan, age 13, of Louisville, Ky., for her question:

How often do salmon migrate?

The pink salmon of the Pacific Ocean always migrates back to its breeding ground when it is two years old. But other species of salmon are not so definite. Some of the Atlantic salmon travel 1,500 miles from land and do not migrate until they are five years old. Others of the same species migrate after one, two or three years.

The rich sockeye salmon of the Pacific is also indifinite about the time it returns to its breeding grounds. Most of them return after four or five years of ocean life. Some return after three years, and some of the whopping six-pounders have been in the ocean for eight years.

Copyright 1963, Los Angeles Times

Tristan da Cunha

Islanders Vote to Return Home

WASHINGTON — Even if home is covered with lava, there's no place like Tristan da Cunha.

Tristan, a volcanic fragment in the South Atlantic, was often called the "loneliest island in the world," the National Geographic Society says. The 260 former residents led a simple, severe life unruffled by modern tensions.

In October, 1961, a volcanic eruption drove the islanders from the backwater homes into the 20th century. After a year's exile in England, they have had quite enough.

"The television sends us mad," an islander said. "Cars, buses, and trains roar like thunder through our brains. There

is no time to think."

The exiles recently voted overwhelmingly to return to Tristan. An advance party of 50 will leave for the island in February, to prepare it for resettlement. Volcanic activity has ceased, but lava has blocked the best landing beaches, and most houses are damaged.

Tristan is strategically situated about halfway between South America and Africa. It was occupied by British troops in 1816. When the garrison left, a Scottish corporal named William Glass elected to settle there with his family. The population was augmented by shipwrecked sailors and deserters from whaling vessels. All the people are now related

by intermarriage, and all bear one of the seven family names: Glass, Green, Hagan, Rogers, Swain, Layarello, and Repetto.

The way of life changed little in 150 years. Tristan had no cars or paved roads. The sole motor vehicle was a tractor. Bullock carts trundled over bumpy tracks on the 37-square-mile island.

The inhabitants lived in thatched cottages. When a young man took a wife, the entire community helped build them a home. Each family kept a few cows and sheep. The women spun their own wool, and the men fashioned soft moccasins to give footing on the island's cindery slopes. The so-called Potato Patches,

windswept plots near the sea were Tristan's chief source of food. The diet was supplemented by fish and bird eggs gathered on nearby Nightingale Island.

Tristan's only industry was started in 1949 with the opening of a plant to process the spiny lobsters, or crayfish, that abound off the island. The plant gave the islanders their first cash income. Before then, wealth was measured in potatoes.

Scrubbed and starched, the entire population would gather for a community dance on Saturday night and church on Sunday. There were no criminals—and no jail.

When the refugees arrived in England, Willie Repetto, Tristan's headman, said, "I'm afraid for us all." The islanders caught colds, and four died of pneumonia. A patriarch who took a job as a watchman was beaten by thugs. An exile made a down payment on a radio and was bewildered to get a bill for the next installment. Men chafed at the routine of daily jobs, and women fretted because they had so little to do.

Headman Repetto voiced the longing of his fellow exiles: "We have vegetable gardens and fruit orchards. We have cattle and plenty of fish. Everybody owns everything, and nobody owns nothing. Living is free to all; and if you don't feel like getting up in the morning, you can stay in bed and nobody will scold you or bother you."

Understandably, scores of Britons seek to go to Tristan da Cunha with the islanders.

To Your Good Health

'Rocking Motion' Can Come From Ears

By DR. JOSEPH G. MOLNER
Dear Dr. Molner: Every now and then I get a bad cold or other minor trouble and go to the doctor and he thinks I'm foolish. You see, I look terribly healthy.

But for the last six months or more I've been getting what I can only describe as a "rocking motion" in my head.

Could it have anything to do with my ears? I get earaches very easily—P.C.

I hope you are exaggerating or misinterpreting when you say your doctor thinks you are foolish for going to him for small ills. True, we don't know

much more about curing the common cold than we did 100 years ago, but we can do a lot about stopping complications if they start to develop.

As for other minor ills, if the patient is worried, we can reassure him, and usually make him feel better, both mentally and physically. There's nothing foolish about that. Are you sure you aren't imagining your doctor's feelings when he gives you that reassurance and tells you there's nothing to worry about?

The "rocking motion" can result when the ears are especially sensitive in the region called the "semi-circular canals."

These fluid-filled organs are largely responsible for our sense of balance. Any shifting of the fluid inside is transmitted by way of the nerves.

Some degree of congestion can, at times, upset this "gyroscope" and cause a "rocking" or dizzy sensation.

So can too much salt in the diet, so one suggestion is to cut down on it, and see if that helps.

If the earaches become progressively worse, have your doctor check to see whether there's any chronic infection.

© 1963, Field Enterprises, Inc.

BUZ SAWYER

BUT WE WERE COUNTING ON A BOAT TO GET THE AMERICAN PILOT OUT OF CUBA, JOSE.

IN TIME, PERHAPS... BUT ALL BOATS HAVE BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THE GOVERNMENT. THEY'RE UNDER GUARD.

ONLY FISHING BOATS ARE ALLOWED TO GO OUT EACH MORNING. IF PASSENGERS ARE ABOARD, THE AUTHORITIES BECOME SUSPICIOUS. NEVER IS A BOAT ALLOWED TO LEAVE AT NIGHT.

THEN CAN YOU HIDE HIM?

THERE AGAIN IS A PROBLEM. NO ONE HAS ENOUGH FOOD... TO FEED HIM, OTHERS WOULD HAVE TO GO HUNGRY. IF THEY TRY TO BUY FOOD ON THE BLACK MARKET, IT COULD MEAN PRISON. EVERYWHERE ARE INFORMERS, STOOLED PIGEONS.

STEVE CANYON

KATE, YOU WOULDN'T LIE TO ME, WOULD YOU?

NOT WITH INTENTIONAL FORETHOUGHT, MISS POTTER, MUM!

DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE DISAPPEARANCE OF AIR CLIPPER DELANE?

AH, MISS POTTER, MUM, I AM NOT CERTAIN MUSTER DELANE WILL NOT STAY LONG AWAY FROM SO KINDLY A LADY AS MUMM DEAN DAY.

KAA-A-TELL YOU DON'T ASK ME THE ANSWER, ME!

AH, MUM, IT WOULD BE THE LANGUAGE DIFFERENCE.

I'LL JUST BE OFF TO THE LIBRARY TO IMPROVE MY AMERICAN SPEECH!

L'L' ABNER

HERE IS PROOF!! THAT HELPLESS BUMS ARE MADE FROM SNIFFING SHMOGEBLOSSOMS!!

—SO IF WE CAN SPREAD THESE BLOSSOMS ALL OVER THE NEW HESS-HAY, WE CAN WALK IN AND TAKE OVER!!

HOW WE GING DO IT?—ROCKETS?—SABOTEURS?—SPIES?

NO!!—IS A BETTER WAY!!—AND WHO THOUGHT OF IT? YOUR LITTLE OLD CHAIRMAN—ME!!

SHORT RIBS

EXTRAORDINARY!

THIS IS PROBABLY THE FIRST RECORDING OF IT.

WHAT IS IT, PROFESSOR?

A SONG... HEARD ON TELEVISION RECENTLY.

BLONDIE

I MADE IT THE COFFEE IS TOO STRONG THIS MORNING.

I DON'T LIKE IT THIS WAY.

YOU DO LIKE IT THIS WAY.

I'VE BEEN MARRIED TO YOU LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW HOW YOU LIKE YOUR COFFEE.

NOW, DON'T BE SO STUBBORN AND DRINK IT.

GASOLINE ALLEY

Yes, Mr. Wicket, I retired from my professorship at the university last year.

You plan to settle here, Dr. Fuddle?

Yes, I had an opportunity to buy this little shop. Something I've always wanted.

Won't you miss your work in anthropology?

Anthropology is the study of man! What better vantage point could a man ask for than this window?

REX MORGAN

SHORTLY AFTER MEETING REX AND TUNE AT THE INN, KEITH CAVELL IN HIS USUAL FLAMBOYANT WAY, PROFFERS HIS LOVE FOR TRACY HEATH.

I THINK YOU'D BETTER GET ME BACK TO THE HOSPITAL, KEITH!

I DIDN'T MEAN TO EMBARRASS YOU, TRACY! I JUST WANTED TO MAKE IT KNOWN, IN THE PRESENCE OF WITNESSES, I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU!

AND BELIEVE ME, TRACY... HE DOESN'T SAY THAT TO ALL THE GIRLS!

HE WAS ABLE TO SAY IT IN SAFETY, DR. MORGAN! HE KNOWS I'M ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED!

BEETLE BAILEY

NOW, LOOK, BEETLE, JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE CAPTAIN OF THE TEAM...

QUIET! DON'T INTERRUPT WHEN I'M TALKING!

I GUESS YOU KNOW THAT WHEN THIS GAME IS OVER, I'LL BE A SERGEANT AGAIN AND YOU'LL JUST BE A PRIVATE...

SO WHAT, STUPID?

I LIVE FOR THE MOMENT.

STEVE ROPER

I'LL BET WE LOOK LIKE THAT JEEP IN "TEAHOUSE OF THE AUGUST MOON." GERRY... MY CAR WOULD HAVE BEEN A LITTLE LARGER... AND A LOT WARMER.

THE NIGHT AIR WILL CLEAR YOUR HEAD AND GET YOU IN SKINNY IS NO SPORT FOR STONE-HUGGERS.

LET'S UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER, MAJOR MCGOY SAID I WAS TO BREAK YOU IN... NOT BREAK MY NECK!

EVERYBODY SKIS AT THE HARTMORE WINTER CARNIVAL. YOU TEACH ME TO TAKE PICTURES—I'LL TEACH YOU TO USE THE HICKORY STAVES--AND IT WON'T BE EASY FOR EITHER OF US!

BUGS BUNNY

WELL, THAT WAS A DAY HAS IT BEEN...

IT'S BEEN A DAY WHEN SAM SLEPPED ON A BANANA PEEL...

...A DAY WHEN SAM STARTED A FEUD WITH ENUFF SMITH...

...A DAY WHEN SAM BOUGHT A NEW BOTTLE OF INK...

THOSE ARE THE HEADLINES, NOW HERE ARE A FEW NEWS BRIEFS FROM KATANGA.

ALLEY OOP

I MUST SAY YOU REALLY DO OUTFIT TH' HELP AROUND HERE.

HELLO OH NO! YOU'RE NOW MY KAWAR!

WHAT'S A KAMAR?

IT'S A TITLE OF NOBILITY, A POSITION OF POWER AND PRESTIGE!

NOT MUCH GOOD WITH ONLY ONE LEG!

OH, YOUR ANKLE WILL MEND SOON... MEANWHILE, I'M SURE YOU CAN FIND INTERESTING WAYS TO PASS THE TIME!

YEH? OKAY, WHAT WOULD YOU SUGGEST?

WELL, OF COURSE, IF YOU'RE BORED...

SAM'S STRIP

WELL, THAT WAS A DAY HAS IT BEEN...

IT'S BEEN A DAY WHEN SAM SLEPPED ON A BANANA PEEL...

...A DAY WHEN SAM STARTED A FEUD WITH ENUFF SMITH...

...A DAY WHEN SAM BOUGHT A NEW BOTTLE OF INK...

THOSE ARE THE HEADLINES, NOW HERE ARE A FEW NEWS BRIEFS FROM KATANGA.

OUT OUR WAY

EXCUSE ME FOR JUST A MOMENT.

IT'S INSTINCT! ALL THAT GABBA AN ME QUIETER THAN A DEAD MOUSE! WHUT KIN A GUY DO ASSAINT INSTINCT?

NOW GO EASY! DON'T LIGHT A SHORT FUSE--LET ME EXPLAIN! I'M NOT SNITCHING ON THE OLD MAN--HE BEGGED ME TO TELL YOU HOW IT HAPPENED--IT SEEMS HE WAS TAKING AN ELEPHANT GUN TO CLEAN IT, AN, NOT KNOWN IT WAS LOADED, SOMEHOW OR OTHER HIS WATCH CHAIN GOT CAUGHT IN TH' TRIGGER--AN WHEN HE WENT TO KNEEZ--ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME?

WHERE IS THAT BIG BABOON NOW?

OH, MAJOR, YOU'RE WANTED.

MAJOR HOOPLE

EXCUSE ME FOR JUST A MOMENT.

IT'S INSTINCT! ALL THAT GABBA AN ME QUIETER THAN A DEAD MOUSE! WHUT KIN A GUY DO ASSAINT INSTINCT?

NOW GO EASY! DON'T LIGHT A SHORT FUSE--LET ME EXPLAIN! I'M NOT SNITCHING ON THE OLD MAN--HE BEGGED ME TO TELL YOU HOW IT HAPPENED--IT SEEMS HE WAS TAKING AN ELEPHANT GUN TO CLEAN IT, AN, NOT KNOWN IT WAS LOADED, SOMEHOW OR OTHER HIS WATCH CHAIN GOT CAUGHT IN TH' TRIGGER--AN WHEN HE WENT TO KNEEZ--ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME?

WHERE IS THAT BIG BABOON NOW?

OH, MAJOR, YOU'RE WANTED.