

TRIASSIC PERIOD

(252 TO 201 MILLION YEARS AGO)



QUIZ

1. What is a fossil?

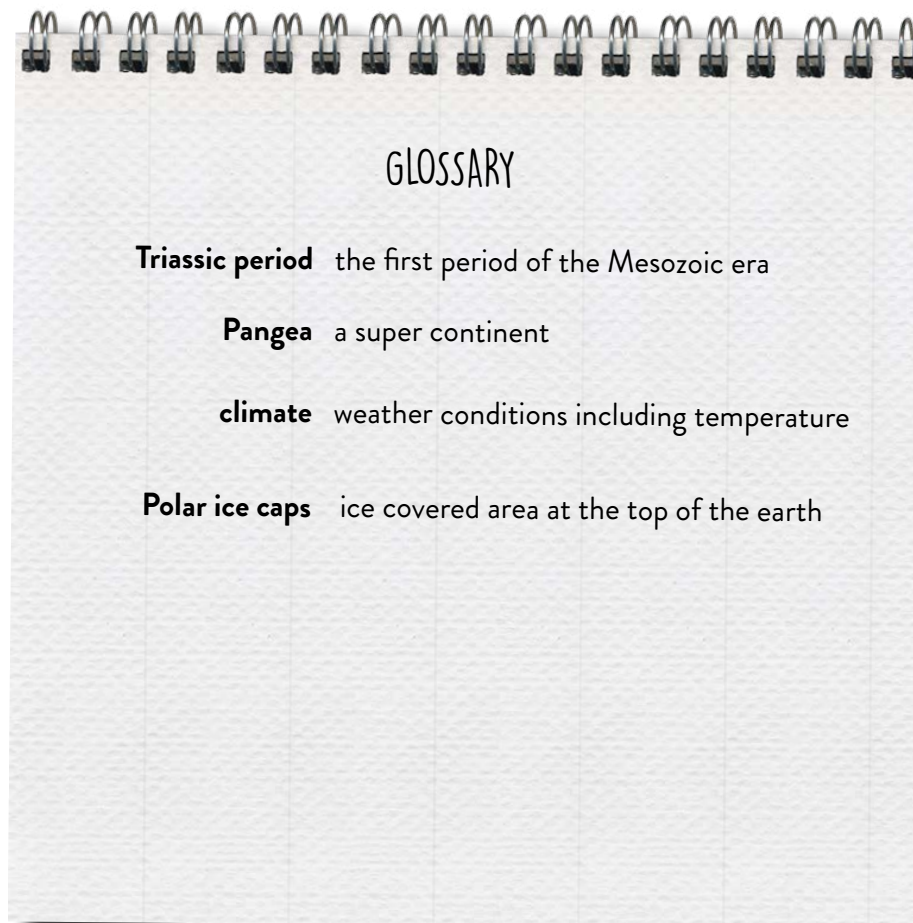
- ☐ preserved remains
- ☐ Preserved food
- ☐ Preserved house

2. What is an expert?

- ☐ someone who studies fossils.
- ☐ someone who knowledgeable about a certain area.
- ☐ someone who works in a museum

3. Mary Anning discovered a fossil on:

- ☐ the beach
- ☐ under the sea.
- ☐ up a mountain



GLOSSARY

Triassic period the first period of the Mesozoic era

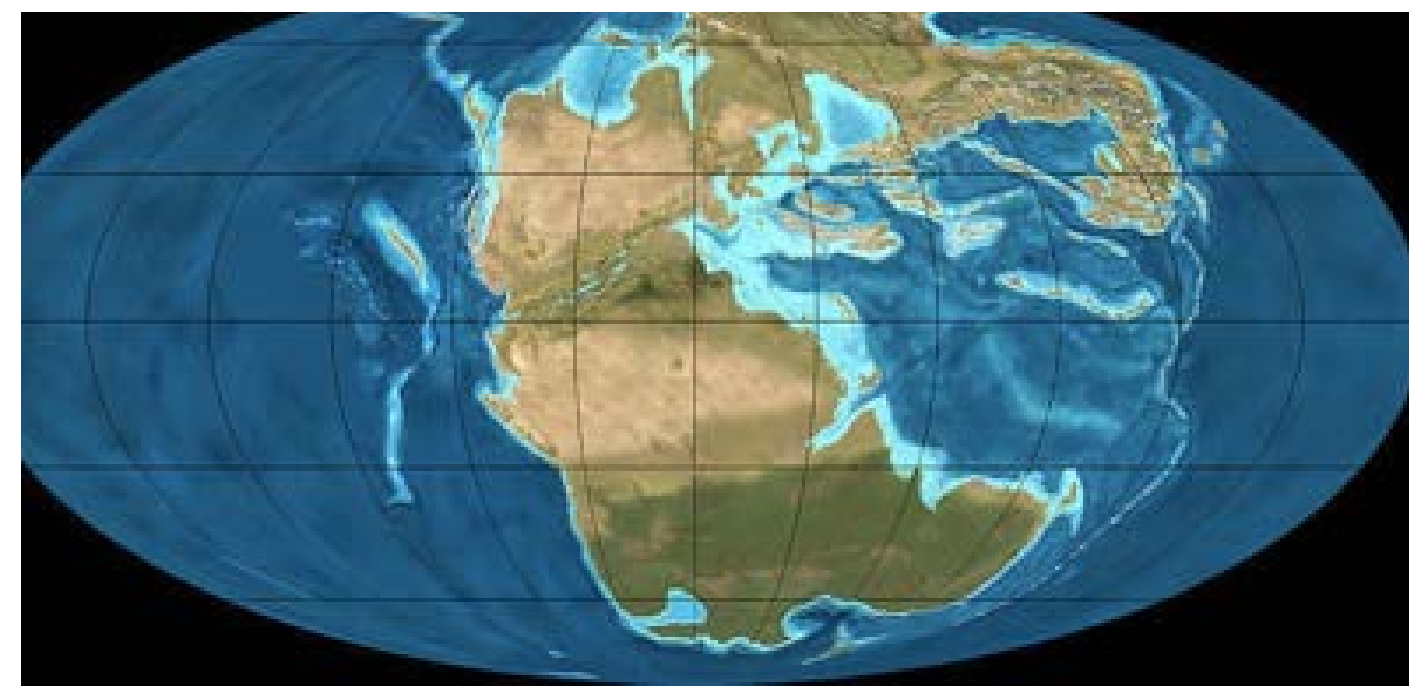
Pangea a super continent

climate weather conditions including temperature

Polar ice caps ice covered area at the top of the earth



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All continents during the Triassic Period were part of a single land mass called Pangaea. This meant that differences between animals or plants found in different areas were minor.

The climate was relatively hot and dry, and much of the land was covered with large deserts. Unlike today, there were no polar ice caps.

It was in this environment that the reptiles known as dinosaurs first evolved. Reptiles tend to flourish in hot climates because their skin is less porous than, for example, mammal skin, so it loses less water in the heat. Reptile kidneys are also better at conserving water.



DISCUSSION

Below are a picture of a reptile and a picture of a dinosaur from the Triassic period. What are the similarities?



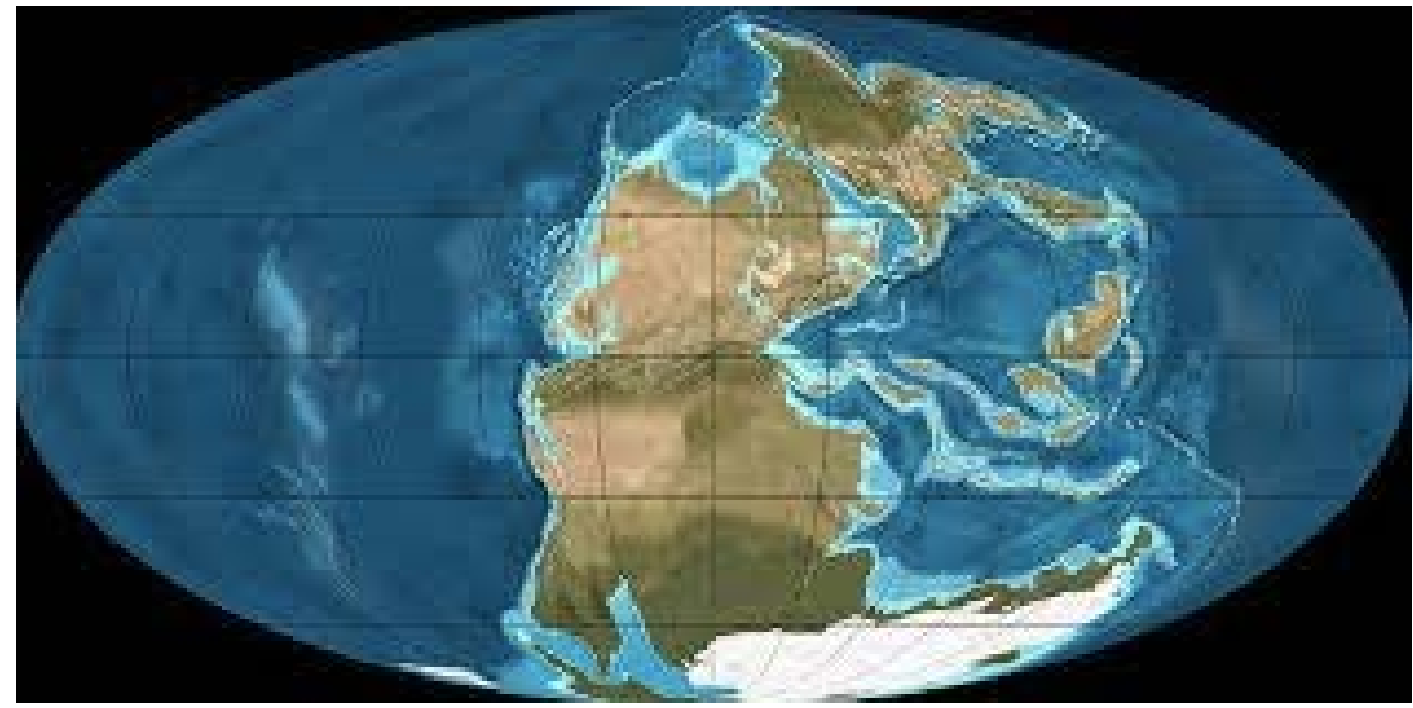
REPTILE



DINOSAUR



THE BIRTH OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC OC



Toward the end of the Triassic, a series of earthquakes and massive volcanic eruptions caused Pangaea to slowly begin to break into two.

This was the birth of the North Atlantic Ocean.



VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS

Could you draw a picture of a volcanic eruption, similar to one that caused the creation of the North Atlantic Ocean?