

How did the Liberty Bell become cracked?

- 1 The Liberty Bell is very old. It has been in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, since 1752. For years, its ringing signaled important events. It cheered loudly when great leaders came to town. It cried softly when leaders died. The bell also brought people together. It called them to hear the Declaration of Independence on July 8, 1776.
- 2 The Liberty Bell is now silent. It has a very bad crack on one side. No one knows for sure how the crack started. It may have started when the bell was made. The bell cracked the first time it rang in 1752. But it was melted down and made again. Experts think a new crack started when the metal cooled. Each time the bell rang, the crack grew.
- 3 For a long time, the crack was too small to see. No one knew it was there at all. Then on July 8, 1835, the bell was ringing slowly. Suddenly, a large crack ripped across it. The bell was badly broken.
- 4 The Liberty Bell has been mostly quiet since then. But it still brings people together. Each year, thousands of people visit the famous bell.

Circle the right answer for questions 1–5. Write your answer to question 6 on a blank piece of paper.

1. The article does not tell _____.
A when the bell first cracked
B how old the bell is
C who rang the bell
D where the bell is

2. Which word in paragraph 2 means “people who know a lot about something”?
A bell
B crack
C metal
D experts

3. Which paragraph tells where the Liberty Bell is?
A 1
B 2
C 3
D 4

4. What happened last in the article?
A The Liberty Bell was rung for the first time.
B A large crack ripped across the Liberty Bell.
C People heard the Declaration of Independence.
D The Liberty Bell was melted down and made again.

5. The article does not say, but you can decide that long ago _____.
A bells were like TV or radio today
B important events happened in Philadelphia
C people didn’t melt down metal and use it again
D bells were moved from other towns to Philadelphia



6. The Liberty Bell is an important symbol of the United States. Name another symbol of the country and tell how it is like and different from the Liberty Bell.

What are fossils?

- 1 What was life like millions of years ago? Fossils can give exciting clues! Fossils are the remains of ancient plants and animals. A fossil must be at least 10,000 years old.
- 2 There are many types of fossils. People have found the bones and fur of animals buried in ice. Other fossils are made of stone. In this case, plant or animal remains were pressed between layers of rock. Instead of decaying, the items turned to stone. Another type of fossil is the trace fossil. A trace fossil might show the shape of an animal's footprint or nest.
- 3 Most fossils are found in rock made from sand or mud. Over time, the rock wears away. Wind and water slowly break down the rock. Then a buried fossil may be exposed.
- 4 It can be fun to dig for fossils. In fact, the word *fossil* means "dug up." Cliffs are often good places to find fossils. Look for any object that seems different from the rocks around it. A three-year-old boy once found pieces of an ancient egg!

Circle the right answer for questions 1–5. Write your answer to question 6 on a blank piece of paper.

1. Fossils must be at least _____ years old.
A 1,000
B 10,000
C 100,000
D 1,000,000

2. Which word in paragraph 3 means “uncovered”?
A wears
B break
C buried
D exposed

3. Which paragraph tells how ancient remains were preserved as fossils?
A 1
B 2
C 3
D 4

4. Some remains of plants or animals turned to stone because they were _____.
A covered by mud
B buried under snow and ice
C pressed between layers of rock
D worn away by wind and water

5. The article does not say, but you can decide that trace fossils _____.
A do not include rock
B are older than other types of fossils
C are more valuable than other fossils
D do not contain plant or animal parts



6. What would you do if you found a fossil?

Who is Sandra Day O'Connor?

- 1 Sandra Day O'Connor was born in 1930. As a child, she lived with her parents at their cattle ranch in Arizona. When she grew up, she became a member of the Cowgirl Hall of Fame. She also became the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.
- 2 Sandra was a strong student. She went to law school after college. Most students took three years to complete law school. But she earned her law degree in just two years. She also earned top grades.
- 3 Sandra was married in 1952. In the years that followed, she built her career and raised her three sons. No one would hire her as a lawyer at first. So, she started her own law office. Then she served as a state senator for five years. Later she worked as a judge for two state courts.
- 4 In 1981, Sandra Day O'Connor became the first female Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. She served on the Court for 24 years. She played an important role in many of the Court's rulings. She set high standards for herself and others. "Do the best you can in every task," she said.

What is a snow eater?

- 1 A snow eater is a special wind. It blows only at certain places and times. One of these places is in the Rocky Mountains. The special time is most often late winter or early spring. The mountains are still covered with snow then.
- 2 One day a wind comes from the west. The wind blows up the west side of the mountain. It drops rain there. So it gets drier and drier as it climbs. Soon the wind reaches the top of the mountain. Cold air there keeps it from going higher.
- 3 Then the dry wind starts down the other side of the mountain. As it travels down, a strange thing happens. The wind becomes warmer and warmer. Its temperature can climb 30°F to 40°F in just a short time. The warm wind melts the snow at the foot of the mountain. As if by magic, animals can feed on grass that had been covered with snow only a few hours before.
- 4 This wind is called the snow eater or *chinook* (shuh•NOOK). The warm, dry wind may last only a few hours. Sometimes it lasts a few days. No one can tell when the snow eater will come again.

Circle the right answer for questions 1–5. Write your answer to question 6 on a blank piece of paper.

1. The snow eater happens in the _____.
A Rocky Mountains
B White Mountains
C Appalachian Mountains
D Sierra Nevada Mountains

2. Which word in paragraph 3 means “how hot or cold something is”?
A climb
B temperature
C dry
D warm

3. Which paragraph tells another name for the snow eater?
A 1
B 2
C 3
D 4

4. The snow eater gets drier as it climbs because it _____.
A gets cold
B drops rain
C melts snow
D blows hard

5. *Foot* can have the following meanings. Mark the meaning used in paragraph 3.
A motion of walking or running
B part of a person’s leg
C the lowest part
D 12 inches

 6. Do you think *snow eater* is a good name for this wind? Tell why or why not.