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# Weekly Test Lesson 23

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

## Ice Ages

What do you think of when you hear the term *ice age*? You might have a picture in your mind of white, icy surroundings with huge woolly mammoths and saber-tooth tigers roaming around. That is a fairly correct picture of the last ice age. If you were to be transported there, your new environment would be as white as a clean sheet of paper. This article will explain what an ice age is and how one changes Earth.

### Cycles

You may be familiar with the water cycle or perhaps the life cycle of an animal such as a frog. Earth's climate is also a cycle. Over time, Earth's climate has changed. It changes from a warm period to a cold period and back again several times. As you may have guessed, the cold periods are the ice ages. The last one took place more than 10,000 years ago.

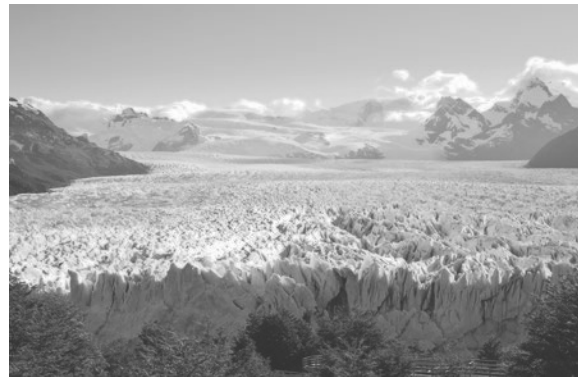
Long ago, Earth was in a warm period. Many places that are cold today were tropical during that time. Scientists are not sure why, but the climate began to change. There was a long cooling period in which temperatures slowly fell. The water in the seas grew colder over time. Ice caps formed at Earth's poles. Snow fell and did not melt, causing glaciers to form on land. This ice age lasted for a very long time. Then temperatures began to slowly rise once again. The snow and ice slowly melted into water. Today, we are in a warm period. However, scientists believe the cycle will continue. One day there will be another ice age on Earth. When that happens, Earth will go into another cold period. Water may freeze into snow and ice once again.

### Snapshots of Earth

If you took a picture of Earth during an ice age, what do you think you would see? During an ice age, huge glaciers cover much of Earth's land. The ice can be a mile thick in some places. During the last ice age, this thick ice covered much of the land on the North American continent and on Europe, too. The land we walk on today looked very, very different.

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## Reading

**Bear Glacier in Canada****Perito Moreno Glacier in Argentina**

If you were in space looking down on Earth during an ice age, how would Earth look? You would see more land than you would see if you were to look today. During an ice age, a lot of water in the sea freezes into glaciers. As a result, the sea level drops, revealing land that was underwater. During an ice age, you could probably walk west from North America to Asia because there would likely be an intercontinental land bridge connecting the two continents. Today, water separates these two continents.

**Plants and Animals**

As you may have guessed, because of the different climates, different plants and animals live during an ice age. All living things have needs, such as the need for food and water. They must have the resources in their environment to meet those needs. When there is a dramatic change in the environment, the living things may not be able to meet their needs for survival. Saber-toothed tigers and woolly mammoths lived during the last ice age. Like many other plants and animals, they became extinct when the ice age ended. This may have been because they were not able to meet their needs and were no longer able to survive in their environment.

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## Reading

**Learning About Ice Ages**

Scientists who study the distant past are like detectives who solve mysteries. After a glacier melts and retreats, it leaves clues that scientists can study. Huge glaciers become lakes, such as the Great Salt Lake in Utah. Scientists study the water there to learn what life was like in the past. They look for and interpret the clues they find to draw conclusions. Scientists have also found fossils of animals and plants that lived during the last ice age. The fossils contain a lot of useful information. They tell scientists about what life was like 10,000 years ago. Today, scientists continue to monitor Earth's climate, hoping to predict the coming of the next ice age.

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- 1 Read the sentences from the passage.

What do you think of when you hear the term *ice age*? You might have a picture in your mind of white, icy surroundings with huge woolly mammoths and saber-tooth tigers roaming around. That is a fairly correct picture of the last ice age. If you were to be transported there, your new environment would be as white as a clean sheet of paper.

Why does the author use the phrase as white as a clean sheet of paper?

- (A) to show how cold an ice age is
- (B) to show how much paper you see during an ice age
- (C) to show how clean the environment is during an ice age
- (D) to show that the ground would be covered in snow and ice

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Reading

- 2 Read the sentence from the passage.

During an ice age, you could probably walk west from North America to Asia because there would likely be an intercontinental land bridge connecting the two continents.

What is the **most likely** meaning of the word intercontinental?

- (A) on continents
  - (B) before continents
  - (C) outside continents
  - (D) between continents
- 3 Read the sentence from the passage.

Scientists who study the distant past are like detectives who solve mysteries.

What does the phrase like detectives who solve mysteries mean as it is used in the sentence?

- (A) Scientists look for criminals.
- (B) Detectives also study the ice age.
- (C) Detectives wait for glaciers to melt.
- (D) Scientists use clues to discover the truth.

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- 4 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

**Part A**

What do the images help the reader understand?

- (A) how glaciers are made
- (B) what glaciers look like
- (C) how to understand an ice age
- (D) what the next ice age will look like

**Part B**

Which sentence supports the answer to part A?

- (A) During the last ice age, this thick ice covered much of the land on the North American continent and on Europe, too.
- (B) As a result, the sea level drops, revealing land that was underwater.
- (C) After a glacier melts and retreats, it leaves clues that scientists can study.
- (D) Today, scientists continue to monitor Earth's climate, hoping to predict the coming of the next ice age.

- 5 Mark each box to show in which section the information is located.

|   | <b>Snapshots<br/>of Earth</b> | <b>Plants and<br/>Animals</b> |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Huge glaciers covered much of the land.                         |                               |                               |
| There were different things alive during and after the ice age. |                               |                               |
| Saber-toothed tigers became extinct after the ice age.          |                               |                               |
| There was more land during the ice age.                         |                               |                               |

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**Reading**

- 6 How does the author organize the passage? Use evidence from the passage to support your answer.

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## Writing

- 7 Choose the sentence that contains a punctuation error.
- (A) Our bodies have different types of vessels: arteries, veins, and capillaries.
  - (B) Rocks are put into three groups: sedimentary, metamorphic, and igneous.
  - (C) Science is sometimes divided: into categories life, Earth, and physical.
  - (D) Most matter can be found in one of three states: solid, liquid, or gas.
- 8 Choose the sentence that contains a spelling error.
- (A) Farmers bring busehls of apples to the grocery store.
  - (B) College students must study hard to earn their degrees.
  - (C) It is not difficult for us to know whether the dog is happy.
  - (D) The students made a poster to show what they had learned.
- 9 Carla is writing a report about how to build a model volcano. Read the paragraph from the draft of her report. Underline the sentence that contains a punctuation error.

Did you know that you can make your own volcano. Just follow these steps. First, build your volcano and place it in a plastic container to catch spills. Next, place a jar inside the volcano. Put some vinegar in the jar. You may also want to add red food dye. Then, add small scoops of baking soda into the jar. When the volcano erupts, it will make you say, "Wow!"

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**Writing**

- 10 Jose is writing a report about the water cycle. Read the paragraph from Jose's report. Then complete the task that follows.

The water in a pool on the ground is part of a cycle that happens. The water falls from the sky and makes a little pool. Finally, when the white puffs in the sky are full of drops, they fall from the sky again. The sun warms the water in the pool. The water evaporates into a gas called water vapor. The water vapor cools and condenses in the sky. It becomes part of the white puffs in the sky.

Rewrite the paragraph to be more organized by putting the sentences in the correct order and adding linking verbs. Be sure to also include more precise details.

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