

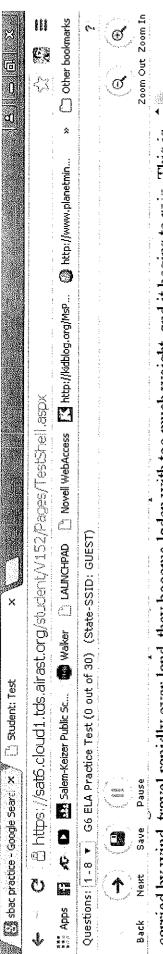
By Phillip Cho

cloud one afternoon unexpected, so imagine how amazed its residents were when live fish rained down on them from a dark gray down the streets, and a dry wind huries weeds down the dirt roads. Not much happens that is new or map, Lajamanu looks a lot closer to the center of Australia than any coast. On any given day, red dust blows Lajamann, Australia, is a dry little town with 600 residents, sitting right on the edge of the Tanami desert. On a

predict the Lluvia de Peces, or Rain of Fishes, once or twice a year doesn't even surprise residents any longer. In Yoro, Honduras, it happens so regularly that they have begun to from an ocean, seems like it must be an elaborate hoax. In some places, however, it happens so often that it That is exactly what happened in the remote Australian village. Raining fish, especially more than 300 miles

waterspouts tend to carry the fish with them, as well as frogs or other small plants or animals waterspouts are only a few feet tall, but others are over a hundred feet high! When they vacuum in the water, effect which causes the fumel to suck everything it passes upward into its highest, widest section. Some called a waterspout. A waterspout is just like a tornado, only it forms above oceans, lakes, or rivers. Like a tornado, a waterspout is shaped like a funnel and moves in a circle at high speeds. The speed creates a vacuum How do clouds make fish? The simple answer is that they don't. There is a particular weather phenomenon

how the fish and from seem to fall from the sky carried by wind, travel rapidly over land, they become laden with too much weight, and it begins to rain. This is and all of the things in it tend to move upward, into the atmosphere, in the form of clouds. When the clouds As these waterspouts reach land, they begin to dissipate, or lose momentum. But since warm air rises, the water



carried by wind, travel rapidly over land, they become laden with too much weight, and it begins to r-in This is how the fish and frogs seem to fall from the sky.

snakes, and none were blind. In Lajamanu, Australia, the fish were not only alive, but some were large enough Scientists couldn't figure it out at first. To make matters stranger still, the fish in Yoro were very much alive when they rained down to the ground, but they were all blind. In England, it rained fish, frogs, spiders, and to eat. It was difficult to puzzle out, but the blind fish in Yoro gave them a place to start.

on Yoro, scientists began to connect some dots. Clearly, these particular fish were pulled from an underground eyesight over generations of adaptation. They simply no longer needed to see. So when blind fish rained down Scientists knew that some fish that lived in deep, underground caves with no light sources often lost their water source by force. The waterspout theory began to seem more and more possible.

phenomenon. Historically, villagers thought the "fishes from the heavens" might be answers to prayers for food. Geographic team happened to be in Yoro when the Rain of Fishes began. They recorded what was happening It has rained fish on every continent, and each time, people have tried in various ways to explain this strange Others proposed that flashfloods overran river banks and oceans, depositing the fish on the city streets. No scientist had actually seen the rain as it occurred, only the fish left on the ground. But in 1970, a National and made history by finally proving that the fish really did fall from the sky.

explained ancient cave paintings and shed new light on how species have spread over time. It turned out to be a true stories and provided scientific explanations for how fish came to live in deep caves and isolated ponds. It This huge breakthrough wasn't just a spot of good luck. It changed thousands of years of nivins and legends into lot more than just a little fishy weather.