

Rain of Fishes, once or twice a year

How do clouds make fish? The simple answer is that they don't. There is a particular weather phenomenon 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 effect which causes the funnel to suck everything it passes upward into its highest, widest section. Some waterspouts are only a few feet tall, but others are over a hundred feet high! When they vacuum in the water, waterspouts tend to carry the fish with them, as well as frogs or other small plants or animals.

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

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Which statement **best** summarizes the central idea of the text?

- A Fish adapt to their environments, and in some cases lose certain abilities.
- B Animals raining from the sky is an unusual event that can be explained through science.
- C Scientists need to capture fish raining from the sky on film before the event is believable.
- D Animals live through varying weather conditions despite extreme changes to their environments.

3

Read the paragraphs from the text. Then, answer the question.

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 snakes, and none were blind. In Lajamanu, Australia, the fish were not only alive, but some were large enough to eat. It was difficult to nuzzle out, but the blind fish in Yoro gave them a place to

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

Which statement best summarizes the central idea of the paragraphs?

- a Scientists were interested in knowing why the raining animals differed from place to place.
- b Details about animals affected by the unusual event led to an understanding of how it was happening.
- c The presence of unusual animals brought about the belief that the event was rare and due to special situations.
- d Understanding how animals change to match their environments helped scientists determine why particular events happened to them.

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Read the paragraph from the text.

It has rained fish on every continent, and each time, people have tried in various ways to explain this strange phenomenon. Historically, villagers thought the "fishes from the heavens" might be answers to prayers for food. 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 Geographic team happened to be in Yoro when the Rain of Fishes began. They recorded what was happening and made history by finally proving that the fish really did fall from the sky.

What most likely did the author intend by mentioning some of the beliefs people had about raining fish at the beginning of the paragraph? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

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

Part A

Click on the statement that **best** describes what the reference to tornadoes shows about waterspouts.

- A. A waterspout can cause destruction.
- B. A waterspout can carry items within it.
- C. A waterspout is difficult to catch on film.
- D. A waterspout is a unique weather system.

Part B

Click on the sentence from the text that **best** supports your answer in

Part A

<https://sat6.cloud1.tds.altrast.org/student/M152/Pages/TestShell.aspx>Apps Salem-Keizer Public Sc... Walker LAUNCHPAD Novell WebAccess <http://kiddlog.org/mfp...> <http://www.planetmim...> » Other bookmarks

Questions: 1 - 8 ▾ G6 ELA Practice Test (1 out of 30) (State-SSID: GUEST)

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C. A waterspout is unusual to catch on land.

D. A waterspout is a unique weather system.

Part B

Click on the sentence from the text that **best** supports your answer in part A.

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6

Read the sentence from the text. Then, answer the question.

Lajamanu, Australia, is a tiny little town with 600 residents, sitting right on the edge of the Tanami desert.