

Rain of Fishes, once or twice a year

How do clouds make fish? The simple ^{Passage} 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

a hundred feet high!

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

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

How does this sentence add to the confusion about raining fish as presented in the text?

- (A) It helps the reader picture an area that would make raining fish an unusual event.
- (B) It helps the reader consider whether there were raining fish in neighboring towns.
- (C) It helps the reader know that raining fish was welcomed in the area.
- (D) It helps the reader understand why few people knew about raining fish.

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How does the last paragraph add to the central idea of the text? Select three options.

- ☐ It describes how species in the area changed over time.
- ☐ It illustrates the importance of finding the explanation behind the event. Option A
- ☐ It explains how waterspouts came to be a center of scientific research.
- ☐ It identifies how the discovery cleared up many different scientific theories.
- ☐ It shows how the understanding of waterspouts affected other areas of science.

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Read the sentence from the text.

~~This huge breakthrough wasn't just a spot of good luck.~~

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Which statement best describes what the phrase "wasn't just a spot of good luck" adds to the meaning of the text?

- ☐ (A) It explains the idea that the raining fish could only be seen in certain places.
- ☐ (B) It establishes that the scientists were fortunate to have made their discoveries. Option B
- ☐ (C) It reinforces the idea that hard work went into determining the cause for the raining fish.
- ☐ (D) It suggests that the scientists relied heavily on random events to drive their investigation.