A Green Sahara

Mastery 1 – Unit 14
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Language Center

Summarize the text

A green Sahara

An international team of archeologists, **(1)** _who were searching for fossils in the Sahara Desert_, have made a dramatic discovery.

In the Gobero area of Niger, **(2)** _____, the archeologists have found evidence of a green, fertile valley. Scientists who have examined the evidence now think that the climate in the area was good until almost 4,500 years ago, **(3)** _____.

What did the archeologists discover? Well, they found evidence that people lived at the site between 4,500 and 10,000 years ago, **(4)** _____. Paul Sereno, **(5)** _____, described how he saw bones belonging to animals that didn't live in the desert.

It is amazing that these people once lived in an area that is now largely dust.



4 Complete the news report using the phrases in the box.

~~who were searching for fossils in the Sahara Desert~~
who made the discovery with a team of researchers
which is treeless today
where they hunted fish and animals next to a lake
when the valley dried up

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Speaking

5 Why do you think the Gobero area of Niger dried up about 4,500 years ago? Discuss the possible reasons for this change in climate with your partner. Then share your ideas with the class.

Analyze the text

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Speaking

6 What causes climate change? Do you think climate change is important? Share your ideas with the class.

Practice

Language Center

Workbook Page W75 Part 5

5 Complete the text with the words in the box.

blocked	caused	dark	dramatic
fertile	froze	provide	
small	warm		

The Mount Tambora volcano

The eruption of Indonesia's Mount Tambora on April 5, 1815, was one of the most **1** _dramatic_ eruptions in history. Signs of the eruption began when a **2** _____ cloud of ash formed over the mountain. Several **3** _____ eruptions occurred over several days before a huge eruption took place.

The eruption **4** _____ out part of the Sun's light for months afterward. This **5** _____ 1816 to be called *The Year Without a Summer*. June, July, and August, which were usually **6** _____ months, were extremely cold across Europe and North America that year.

All over the world, crops failed and farmers had to kill their cattle to **7** _____ food. At least 300,000 people starved or **8** _____

In Indonesia, it took five years before the ground became **9** _____ enough for plants to grow again.

Homework

Prepare a presentation about what causes climate change and if you think it is important to the future of the Earth.