

# Still telling tales

Millions of people have come to the Giant's Causeway, and they've been coming for hundreds of years! Look at these photos and you'll see faces and fashions from long ago. And for as long as people have been coming, there's been a warm welcome as well as guides eager to tell their tales about the Causeway.

Tourists would sometimes be fought over for their business!

## STEADY ON GUIDES!

When the Causeway tram started running in 1887 lots more people came to visit the Causeway, and there would be a small army of guides ready and waiting for them. They were all keen to take the tourists' money and give them their own version of the Causeway tour. If there weren't enough tourists to go round, the guides would actually break into fights over them!



## SEEN FROM THE SEA

A boat tour used to be an essential part of any day trip to the Causeway. Up to 20 passengers would be loaded into seven-metre long rowboats and taken all along the coast. They'd even be taken into caves, and in one of them someone would be waiting with a gun that they'd fire off a) to show the visitors how sounds were magnified in the cave and b) to scare the poor tourists half to death! The National Trust took over the Causeway in 1961 and decided not to take visitors out to sea and not to fire guns near them for entertainment!

It doesn't look much safer in the rowboats!

## KING OF THE GUIDES

There was one guide who was particularly famous and he was guiding visitors well before the National Trust took over the care of the Causeway and carried on for years after. Alec Martin was 'King of the Causeway' and would entertain visitors with his stories as well as offer them souvenirs he'd made himself!

These guides look mostly friendly but competition for business was fierce!



## EARNING A LIVING

Way back in 1708, people were already taking guided tours of the Causeway. We know that from an account written by Samuel Molyneux about his visit. (That name sound familiar? He was the nephew of Sir Thomas!) These guides were all local, some started as young as 15 and others were still guiding well into their 80s! They must have thought it easier and safer work than fishing out at sea.

The Causeway tram was super green as it was the world's very first tram powered by hydroelectricity! The water came from the River Bush.

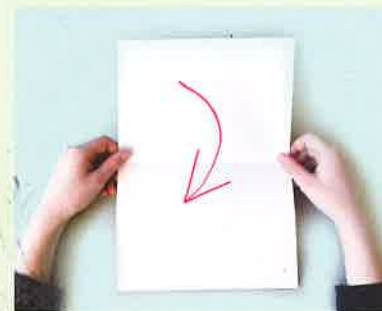


## Row your own boat

Early visitors, the brave ones anyway, took their tours from little rowboats! You can't take a boat tour any more, but you can make your own boat! Here's how...



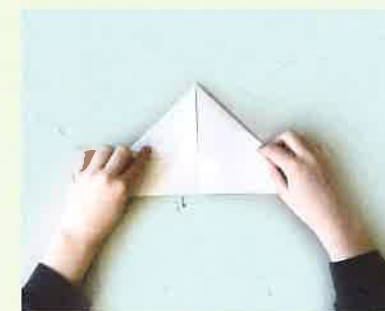
1 Take a piece of A4 paper and fold it in half like so.



2 Fold it in half again and open it up.



3 Fold the top corners in to the middle crease like this.



4 Hold the bottom of the side facing you and fold up over the triangles.



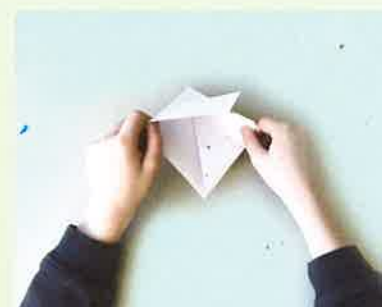
5 Flip it over and fold down the little triangles poking up over the other side.



6 Then fold the bottom up to cover the folded-down triangles.



7 From this shape open it up in the other direction and flatten.



8 It'll look like this.



9 Now take hold of the point at the bottom and fold it up to the top.



10 Flip it over and fold the other point up.



11 Open it up again and flatten.



12 Gently pull apart from the points at the top and - ta dah! - a rowboat.





# Causeway Wildlife

The Causeway is one massive wonder of nature millions of years old. But there are also living wonders of nature creeping, crawling, swimming, fishing and flying all over the place! Some are easier to spot than others, but all these are here if you look hard enough.

## FEATHERY FRIENDS

We all know Frank now but there are masses of other bird species that also call the Causeway home, at least for part of the year.



**Oystercatchers**

These prefer to nest in the open, sometimes on the top of the columns themselves! They're easy to spot with their bright red legs and long orange bill, which they use to prise open shellfish.



**Eider duck**

These ducks make their nests in crevices on and around the Causeway. Eiderdown – soft feathers from the mother's breast – is used to line the nests to keep the young nice and cosy. You may have heard the name before, as these feathers are sometimes used to fill quilts and duvets.

**Razorbill**

This stocky black and white bird normally lives out at sea, only coming onto land to breed. If you see them up close there's that distinctive bill of course, but you may notice them fishing off shore, diving into the water when they see an eel or fish. They can even use their wings as paddles to chase their prey underwater!

## Even more tourists!

Some birds live here all year, but some come for their annual holidays. Wheatears and grasshopper warblers both travel all the way from Africa to nest at the Causeway.

**Grasshopper warbler in mid-warble!**



## UNDER THE SEA

The sea around the Giant's Causeway is full of watery wildlife, but seals are a favourite with visitors as well as the people lucky enough to work here. We've got both common and grey seals. Greys are actually commoner, and they breed on the rocky coast around the Causeway from September to December. They're wary of humans but can sometimes be spotted playing offshore.



Basking sharks are the second-largest fish in the world: only the whale shark is bigger.

If you wanted big, nothing in the waters round here gets bigger than this! Basking sharks can grow up to 8 metres – as long as a house is tall! But if you see the tip of their metre-tall fin sticking out of the water, don't panic and scream 'SHARK!' Basking sharks only feed on plankton, tiny drifting organisms that live in the surface layers of the sea.



## What's washed up?

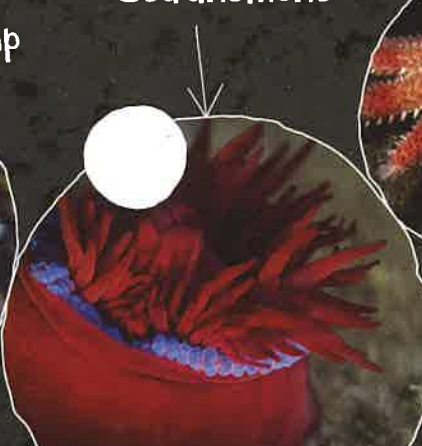
At low tide rock pools become little aquariums, letting you get up close to various water-loving creatures without you even having to get your feet wet! Just remember, it's always better to look and not touch. Once you've found one of the animals, put a tick beside it.



**Dog whelk**



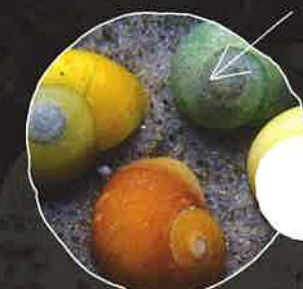
**Shrimp**



**Sea anemone**



**Common starfish**



**Barnacles (the little ones) and limpets (the big ones)**

**Periwinkles**

**Crab**



A young grey seal in big brown seaweed, known as kelp.



Seals spend most of their lives in the water. They can even sleep there by doing something called 'bottling'. They get into an upright position with just their heads above water.





# Watch your step!

Thousands of basalt pillars making a pavement out to sea. The skies and the seas teeming with life. There's enough here to make your head spin! But that's not even all there is to see – you just need to look a little more closely, and watch where you tread!

## WHAT GROWS HERE?

You might think that plants would have a hard time growing at the Giant's Causeway. It's true, a lot of plants would struggle to make a home here among the rocks, being lashed by the wind and the rain. But that just makes the plants that do grow here that much more amazing.



A cheap way of getting the taste of oysters?

## LIVING ROCKS!

One of the most amazing discoveries at the Causeway was made in a shallow puddle in 2012. It was a colony of stromatolites, which are tiny blue-green bacteria that can photosynthesise like plants. Over thousands of years these build up into a hard rock that continues to grow. This may not sound like much, until you discover that these are one of the earliest life forms on Earth, first appearing three billion years ago, long before the dinosaurs. Adding to the excitement of the discovery is the fact that stromatolites are usually found in salty lakes in warmer countries, for example Australia, Brazil and Mexico, so it was a huge surprise when they were found living in fresh water in Northern Ireland!

## Plucky plants

The oysterplant is usually found on the shingle near the sea, and has silvery-green leaves and produces tiny blue flowers in summer. It gets its name because its leaves taste of oysters. Pretty salty then! We don't recommend you trying it for yourself.

Also look out for Scots lovage, which is only found in Northern Ireland and Scotland. Also rare is sea spleenwort, which is a type of fern you'll find growing in crevices in the rocks.

Some plants add a real splash of colour to the Causeway in the summer months, when you'll see clumps of bird's-foot trefoil (yellow), sea campion (white) and sea pinks (you can work out what colour they are!).

The caterpillar of the pygmy sorrel moth feeds inside the leaf of common sorrel found on the slopes here at the Giant's Causeway. It is Britain's smallest moth and really is tiny—just 3 mm from the tip of one wing to the other. The Giant's Causeway is the only place it's been recorded in Northern Ireland.

These funny-looking lumps of algae have existed on Earth for 3,000,000,000 years!



## Who lives where?

Can you match these Causeway residents to their habitats?

1 Basking on a sunny slope

Fox moth caterpillar

2 Perched around patches of scrub

Stonechat

Common lizard

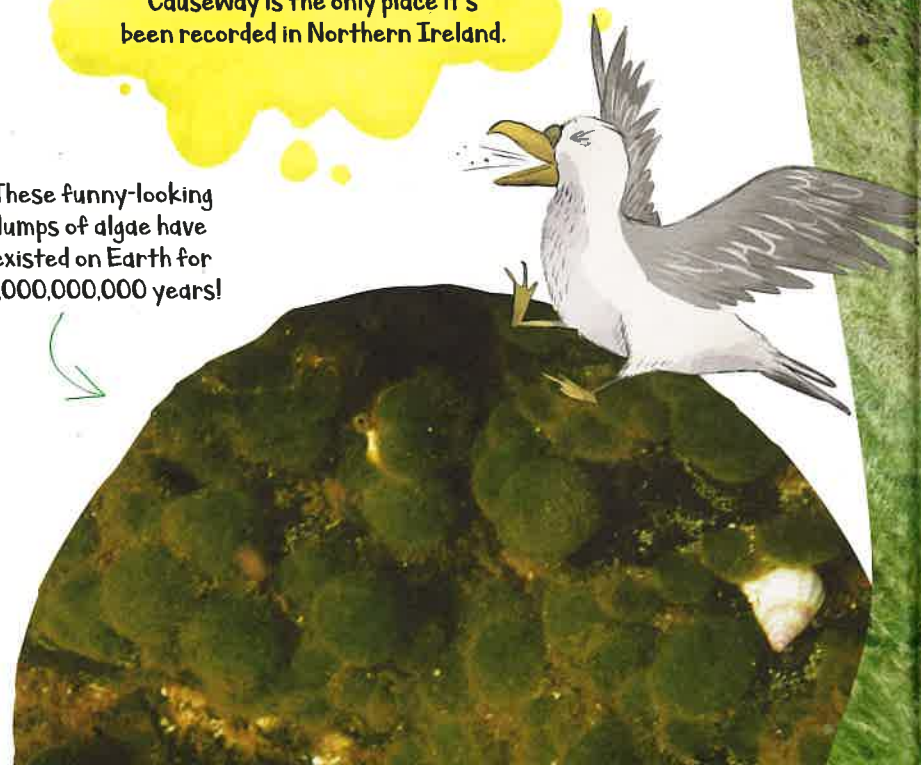
3 Flitting about in grass near the top of the cliffs

5 Skittering on the steep slopes around the Causeway

Ants

4 Crawling around in grassy banks

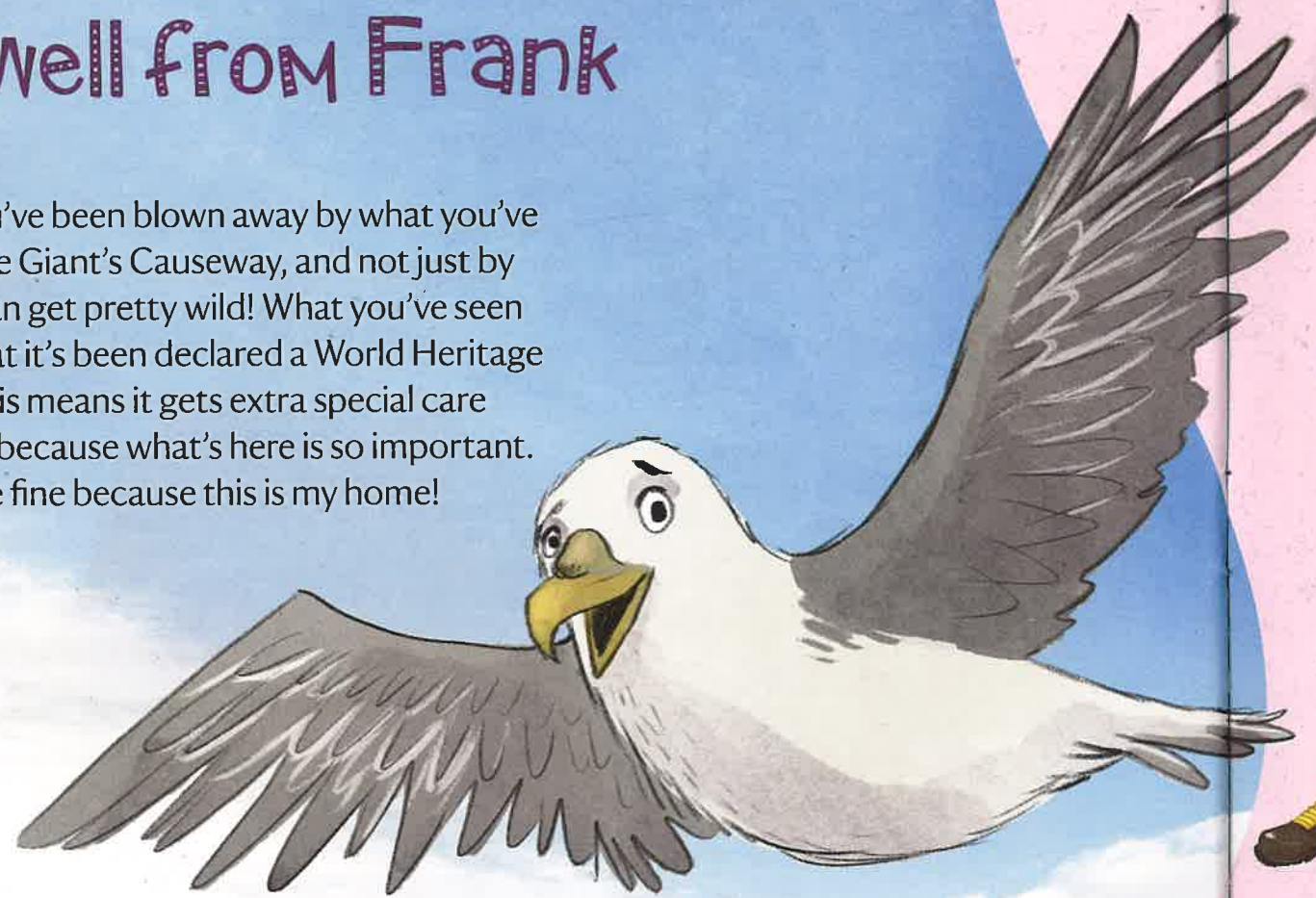
Grayling butterfly





# Farewell from Frank

Well I hope you've been blown away by what you've seen here at the Giant's Causeway, and not just by the wind – it can get pretty wild! What you've seen is so special that it's been declared a World Heritage Site (WHS). This means it gets extra special care and attention, because what's here is so important. Which suits me fine because this is my home!



## WHAT'S WHS?

A World Heritage Site is a landmark or area that has been officially recognised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). There are over a thousand of them around the world. There are three types of World Heritage Site – natural, cultural and a mix of the two. The Giant's Causeway made the list in 1986, not only for the amazing beauty of its landscape but also because of what it tells us about Earth's ancient past.

## TAKE CARE

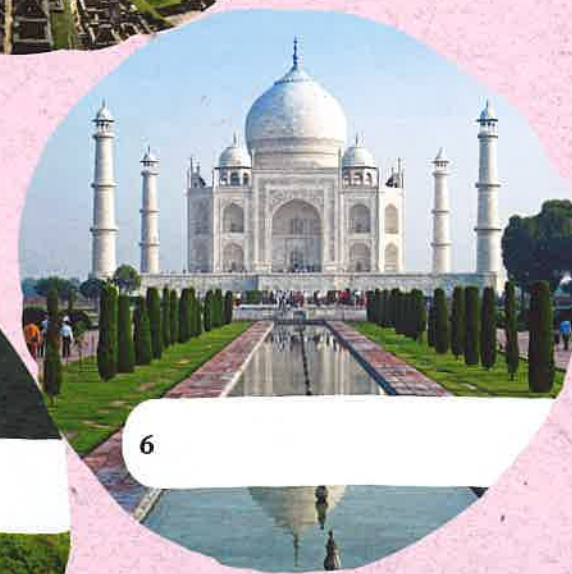
I don't need to tell you why it's so important we look after these places. It's pretty obvious to me and I'm a bird! We've only got this one world and the things on it are finite, which means that they'll run out one day, and that day will come sooner if we're not careful. For example, if you humans catch too many fish or pollute the waters and kill them off, then what am I supposed to eat?!

So go and tell all your friends about this amazing place. It might be the first World Heritage Site you've visited, but let's hope you get out there and see some more of the world's amazing wonders.



## The world's heritage

The Giant's Causeway is certainly special, but there are plenty of others around the world. See if you can identify these places. You can ask grown-ups for help – after all, they should be interested in this stuff too!





# Take our giant quiz!

1

All the world's lands were once part of a giant super continent: what was it called?

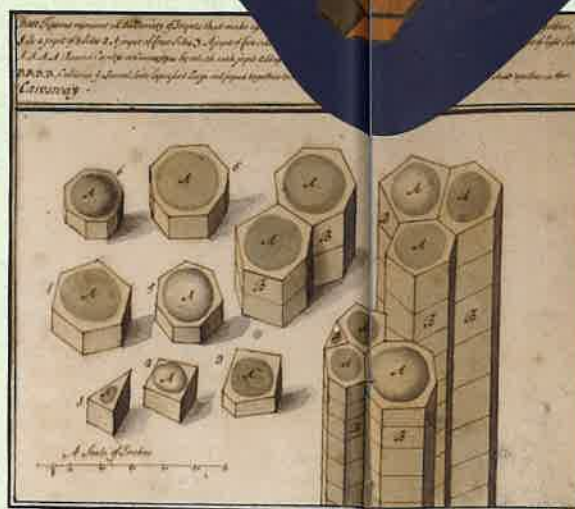
- A Atlantis
- B Gaia
- C Pangaea
- D Frangipane



2

The part of the Earth made of liquid metal is called what?

- A The mantle
- B The inner core
- C The outer core
- D Cor, it's hot in here



9

The many-sided shapes of the columns at the Causeway are its most famous feature. Can you match up the following?

- |             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| five-sided  | heptagonal |
| six-sided   | pentagonal |
| seven-sided | octagonal  |
| eight-sided | hexagonal  |



10

Humphrey the camel is not really a camel at all, but a camel-shaped bit of very hard rock. What is this type of rock called?

- A Dolerite
- B Laterite
- C Ammonite
- D Vegemite



3

What was the name of the fabled Scottish giant that Finn built his Causeway to meet and fight?

- A Benjamin
- B Benanderry
- C Benandonner
- D Benfogle



4

These are some amazing collections of columns, minus a few letters. Can you fill in the blanks?

D \_ \_ N P \_ I \_ T  
\_ \_ \_ G A L ' S C \_ \_ E  
S \_ A R T \_ F \_ S S  
L \_ S O R \_ \_ N \_ S

5

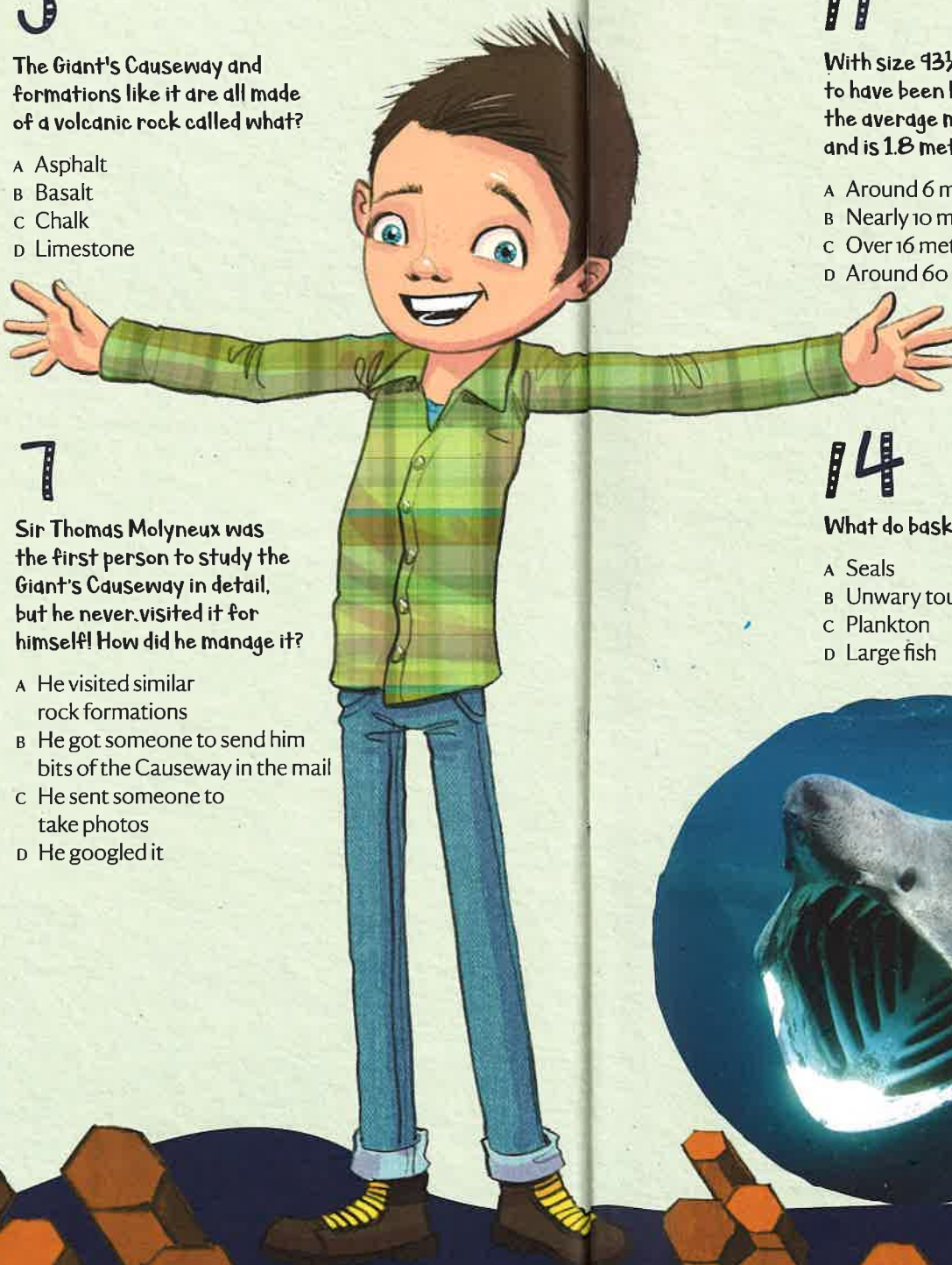
The Giant's Causeway and formations like it are all made of a volcanic rock called what?

- A Asphalt
- B Basalt
- C Chalk
- D Limestone

7

Sir Thomas Molyneux was the first person to study the Giant's Causeway in detail, but he never visited it for himself! How did he manage it?

- A He visited similar rock formations
- B He got someone to send him bits of the Causeway in the mail
- C He sent someone to take photos
- D He googled it



11

With size 93½ feet, Finn is thought to have been how tall? Here's a clue: the average man has size 10 feet and is 1.8 metres tall.

- A Around 6 metres
- B Nearly 10 metres
- C Over 16 metres
- D Around 60 metres

14

What do basking sharks eat?

- A Seals
- B Unwary tourists
- C Plankton
- D Large fish



12

Which country did the sailors on board the galleon *La Girona* come from?

- A Mexico
- B Scotland
- C Spain
- D England



13

Here are some birds that you'll find at the Giant's Causeway but we've jumbled them up! Which feathery friends are these?

- A BRAZILLOR
- B ERSCRATCHYTOE
- C DUKE CIDER
- D AWEATHER



6

What was the name of the artist who famously painted the Giant's Causeway picking up a prize in the process?

- A Susanna Drew
- B Susanna Drury
- C Susanna Dreary
- D Susanna Dandy

8

How do we describe the way the sections of columns fit together?

- A Ball and chain
- B Bat and ball
- C Hinge and bracket
- D Ball and socket

15

Stromatolites first appeared on Earth three billion years ago! That's a lot of zeros, but just how many?

- A 30,000
- B 300,000
- C 3,000,000
- D 3,000,000,000



# Answers

## Inside front cover

Odd one out!

This book belongs to,

If I were a giant I would be called

because

### Contents

Meet the team 2-3

How on Earth? 4-5

The big picture 6-7

Fire and ice 8-9

That's not the story I heard! 10-11

Flows around the world 12-13

Discovery! 14-15

Rocks in the past 16-17

Masses of myths 18-19

Shipwrecked! 20-21

Still telling tales 22-23

Causeway wildlife 24-25

Watch your step! 26-27

Farewell from Frank 28-29

Take our giant quiz! 30-31

Answers 32

**Odd one out!**

The Giant's Causeway is made up over 40,000 pillars of rock. Most are six-sided (hexagonal) but there are some that have four, five or seven sides. There's a rumour that there's a three-sided one somewhere. We've hidden a triangle in amongst all these hexagons. Can you find it?

## Page 9

Anyone order a causeway?



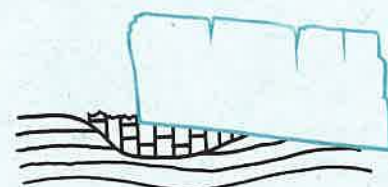
1 Once upon a time, over 60 million years ago, there was a river running through a valley that was covered with plants and trees.



2 Around 60 million years ago, cracks open up in the Earth's crust and out oozes lava. This happens not just once, but lots of times, over time filling up the river valley.



3 The lava in the river valley cools, solidifies and turns into rock, quickly at the top and slowly at the bottom. The slowly cooling lava cracks in even patterns.



4 Things get really chilly. Lots of the Earth's surface is covered in massive, slow-moving glaciers that scrape away at the top layers of rock.



5 Things start to warm up again, the ice melts, the sea levels rise and waves wear away at the rock. When the sea levels drop again, the Causeway is revealed in all its glory!



## Page 12

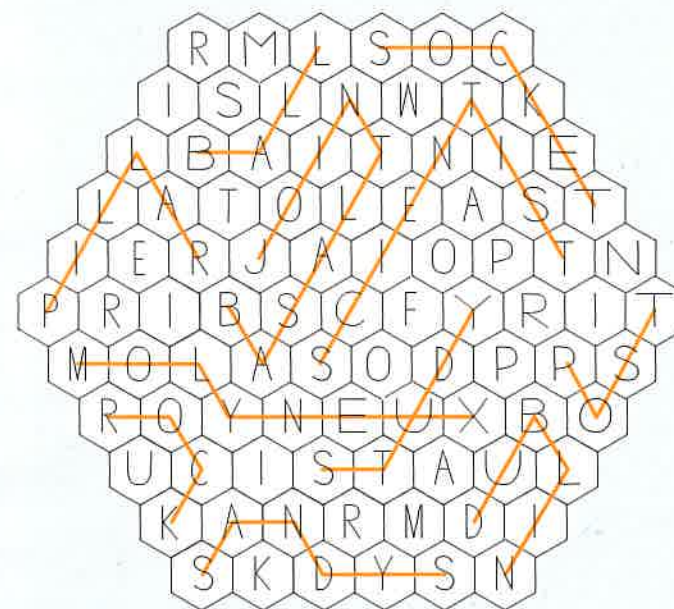
Where in the world?

- 1 Doon Point
- 2 Fingal's Cave
- 3 The Faroe Islands
- 4 Svartifoss
- 5 Disko Island
- 6 Rocha dos Bordões
- 7 Los Organos



## Page 17

Hexagon wordsearch



## Page 21

The hunt for treasure

D	F	G	H	M	I	R	I	N	G	S	A	F	G	J	S
A	I	O	N	B	M	U	G	X	V	G	U	Y	I	L	D
B	F	B	N	A	B	Q	W	G	H	I	O	R	E	F	
N	I	A	R	A	M	C	D	E	R	A	H	M	H	G	
M	T	J	L	W	G	E	A	F	I	J	W	R	T	A	H
K	E	D	N	A	V	S	I	L	V	E	R	D	O	J	
A	V	D	R	L	M	A	M	G	C	W	L	M	I	N	K
B	R	A	S	S	T	A	S	G	H	E	A	J	F	S	I
G	E	M	O	Q	H	M	A	P	E	A	D	A	Y		
A	J	Q	H	U	O	L	D	R	L	A	F	H	L	T	
E	K	N	R	T	N	W	D	T	E	D	V	N	F	R	
U	S	H	N	A	T	G	H	K	R	A	V	M	G	E	
D	Y	O	V	W	S	R	J	A	P	I	L	J	W		
X	G	S	E	D	H	I	L	M	K	L	U	A	O	S	
A	D	B	N	T	L	M	E	S	T	E	L	U	M	A	T
Y	G	O	L	D	V	B	E	M	G	H	I	E	T		

## Page 27

Who lives where?

- 1 Basking on a sunny slope: **Common lizard**
- 2 Perched around patches of scrub: **Stonechat**
- 3 Flitting about in grass near the top of the cliffs: **Grayling butterfly**
- 4 Crawling around in grassy banks: **Fox moth caterpillar**
- 5 Skittering on the steep slopes around the Causeway: **Ants**

## Page 29

The world's heritage

- 1 Stonehenge, United Kingdom
- 2 Easter Island, Pacific Ocean
- 3 Macchu Picchu, Peru
- 4 The Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx, Egypt
- 5 The Great Wall of China, China
- 6 Taj Mahal, India

