The Sacred Stone

Oodgi held the sacred stone. It felt cool and light in her hands, despite the heavy heat of the desert. She had to return it to Irum, the massive rock in the centre of the desert, before sunset. If she failed, her people's land would remain desert forever, and they would have to leave or die.

Oodgi's quest had been spoken of in prophecy. The third daughter of a third daughter, who was born at dawn, in the dead of winter, would be the one who saved her people. When there had been no rain for seven years, the wise woman of her tribe brought out the stone from its hiding spot. She had placed it in Oodgi's hands and blessed her, giving her one piece of advice: "Remember, little one, sand is moved by the smallest wind."

Irum, the great desert rock, was guarded by evil sand sprites; spirit creatures made of sand. Their one aim was to keep their desert home dry so strangers would not visit. These ancient sentries hated all people, and did their best to rob desert travellers of their life.

For hours now, Oodgi had stumbled over the scorching, red sand. Her feet were blistered and her skin was burnt; only the cool stone kept her going. It seemed to call out to Irum, and she had to take it there.

The sun had sunk to the horizon, burning up the sky behind it. Oodgi could feel the sand blowing over her feet — the sprites, waiting for her to stop moving so they could crawl into her mouth and nose to choke her.

Irum finally loomed ahead of her. It was enormous — orange, purple and glowing with power. It seemed to pull everything towards it — shrubs, dunes, and snake tracks all pointed to Irum. Only a few fingers of the sun's fire were left, clutching at the land before they sank out of sight. If nightfall came before she could reach it, the desert would turn cold and silent forever.

The sand sprites were trying harder to stop her now, whipping against her knees and clawing at her throat with ferocious strength. She was so close; she couldn't fail now. Not knowing exactly why, Oodgi did the first thing that came into her mind. She sang.

Her words were loud; the songs of her ancestors, who marched through the desert in ages past. The sand sprites shrank back from her face. Oodgi sang louder, but they stubbornly clutched at her ankles, making it impossible to take another step.

What had the wise woman said? "Sand is moved by the smallest wind." She was calling upon the smallest wind she knew: the breath of her voice.

Stronger now, Oodgi sang firmly into the onslaught of the sand sprites. Her voice drowned out their harsh whistling and, terrified of her passion, they fled away. There was no time left to spare; Oodgi ran to Irum, ran until the wind shrieked in her ear.

Just as the first star popped out of the sky, Oodgi crashed into Irum's orange warmth. Breathing hard, she laid the stone gently at the base of the great rock. She had made it, but what happened now? Was this it?

The sacred stone trembled where it lay. Soon, the earth mirrored it, rumbling from its core. Sand leapt and hopped around the shaking stone as it cracked in half. From its depths emerged the head of a snake, pushing its way out. As it hatched, the snake squirmed and wiggled, growing bigger and bigger, until it was taller than Irum itself.

Its sides were purple, black, blue and silver: all the colours of the desert at night. Oodgi knew what it was; she had heard stories of this creature, the Sky Serpent, since she'd been a small child. As the snake thrashed and roared, black, heavy clouds bloomed into being above the desert. They hung there, still for a moment, before they cracked open and an ocean of rain poured forth from the sky.

Oodgi put her arms out, letting the water run over her whole body. She had fulfilled the prophecy! Crying out with joy, she ran through the gift of the Sky Serpent and all the way back to her village.

Questions

1 Irum was
  a a girl.
  b a sacred stone.
  c a massive rock.

2 What are the sand sprites?
  a creatures made of sand
  b ancient prophecies
  c desert-dwelling people

3 How did the stone feel to Oodgi?
  a hot and heavy
  b cool and light
  c rough and powerful

4 Who said that "sand is moved by the smallest wind"?
  a Oodgi
  b the prophecies
  c the tribe's wise woman

5 What colour did Irum and the Sky Serpent share?
  a black
  b purple
  c orange

6 What was the sacred stone?
  a a rock
  b an egg
  c a snake

Vocabulary

Match the words from the text to the clues.

sacred quest wise core squirmed

7 Intelligent or sensible

8 A journey in search of something

9 Wriggled or writhed about

10 Something that is holy and worthy of respect

11 The centre of something

Grammar

Adjectives and Adverbs

Adjectives give us a better picture of a noun,

*e.g. car - **new** car.*

Adverbs give a better picture of a verb,

*e.g. ran - ran **quickly**.*

*Most adverbs end in '**ly**'. If you drop the '**ly**' you have an adjective.*

Complete the table:

	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB
12	stubborn	
13		hardly
14	final	
15	quick	

Back To The Text...

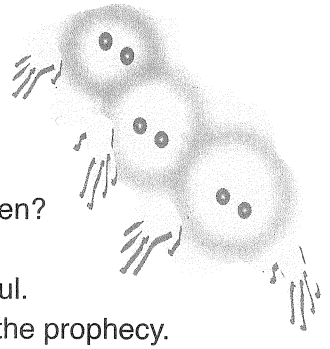
16 It seemed as if Irum could pull the sand dunes towards it.
  a true b false

17 How would the sprites kill Oodgi?
  a by taking the scared stone
  b by choking her

18 This narrative is best described as
  a an historical recount.
  b a legend.

Think About This

19 Look at the illustration. Who or what do we see with Oodgi?
  a Irum
  b the sprites
  c the Sky Serpent



20 Why was Oodgi chosen?
  a She was strong.
  b She was resourceful.
  c Her birth matched the prophecy.

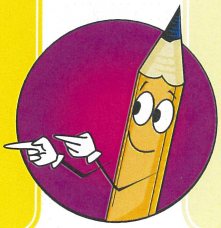
Challenge Option

Briefly retell a legend you have heard about.

Name: _____

Spelling Rules: I Before E

Put ***i*** before ***e***
Except after ***c***
Or when
sounded like ***a***
As in *neighbor*
and *weigh*.



Usually the vowel *i* comes before the vowel *e* in English words. There are many exceptions to this rule. This poem gives the two main exceptions. Often, but not always, it is *ei* after the letter *c* as in the word *deceive*. Also, if the vowels make the sound of a long *a*, then *ei* is usually the correct spelling as in *neighbor* and *weigh*.

Circle the correct spelling of each word below.

1.	feild	field	11.	theif	thief
2.	ceiling	cieling	12.	prairie	prairei
3.	movie	movei	13.	weight	wieght
4.	ieght	eight	14.	yeild	yield
5.	believe	beleive	15.	vein	vien
6.	theif	thief	16.	percieve	perceive
7.	piece	peice	17.	chief	cheif
8.	sliegh	sleigh	18.	viel	veil
9.	tie	tei	19.	friend	freind
10.	recieve	receive	20.	conciet	conceit

PANDORA'S PARTY PALACE

Coach Carter needs enough bottles of water to give one to each player for the soccer gala day.

If 63 players are attending the soccer gala day, how many six packs of water should Coach Cater buy?

Calculate the total cost for the water.

PANDORA'S PARTY PALACE

Class 6A was having a cake stall to raise money for some new play equipment. They bought 14 boxes of cupcakes from Pandora's Party Palace and sold each cupcake at the stall for 50 cents.

Calculate:

- the total cost of the cupcakes
- the total profit made from the cake stall.

PANDORA'S PARTY PALACE

Naomi wants to decorate her house with bunting to welcome her grandparents back from an overseas trip.

Naomi needs 14 m of bunting to decorate the house.

Calculate how many packs of bunting Naomi must buy and the total cost of the bunting.

PANDORA'S PARTY PALACE

As part of their end-of-school year celebration, Principal Jones bought yoghurt ice blocks for every child in the school.

If there were 472 students in the school, how many boxes of yoghurt ice blocks did Principal Jones buy?

Calculate the total cost for the ice blocks.

FORMATION OF THE EARTH

The origin of our home planet, Earth, is linked to the emergence of the sun. About 5 billion years ago, a nebula of gas and dust floating in space began to coalesce, contract and spin, forming a disc in the middle. It became so dense that it led to the creation of a star, our sun. The remaining disc of dust and gas kept revolving around the newly formed star.

These specks of dust were pulled towards each other as a result of their own gravity. The specks of dust grew bigger and became small rocks. Small rocks combined to make bigger rocks and so it went for another 500 million years.

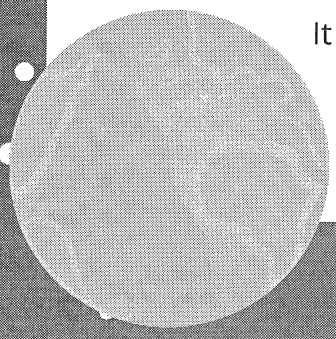
4.5 billion years ago, Earth became the size and shape that we know today but it was a very different place. It was a boiling ball of molten rock. The temperature on this lava-like surface would have been about 1000°C. There was no air and only traces of water in the form of steam.

For the next 700 million years, Earth was hit with a bombardment of debris from the solar system. During this time, another planet about the size of Mars collided with the newly formed Earth. The collision sent dust and debris into space which, over the next 1000 years, settled to form a ring that orbited Earth. 100 million years later, this debris coalesced to form a large ball of rock that we now call the moon.

This bombardment also provided the new planet with different chemicals and minerals. The meteoroids and asteroids were made of different materials and also carried very small particles of something that would be a key feature of the future planet: water. Over hundreds of millions of years, these minerals and water particles accumulated to a point where liquid water became present on the surface.

The Earth's surface began to cool which allowed a crust to form. Gases also started to accumulate and an atmosphere began to develop. 3.8 billion years ago, the bombardment of the planet eased and Earth began to look something like we know today. Oceans of water were present, with volcanic islands scattered across them.

It would be another 2 billion years before large land masses and breathable air appeared and complex organisms were living in the oceans. The first humans didn't arrive for another 1.6 billion years after that.



It seems remarkable that this planet we know today, the planet we call home, came into existence as a result of some specks of dust floating in space.

Name _____ Date _____

Formation of Earth

1. What celestial body had to be formed first before Earth could come into existence?

_____

_____

_____

2. How long did it take for Earth to become roughly the size and shape it is today?

_____

_____

3. Research the definitions for the words below. Write the definition beside the word.

a) nebula _____

_____

b) debris _____

_____

c) bombardment _____

_____

4. Create a five step summary for the formation of Earth.

i) _____

ii) _____

iii) _____

iv) _____

v) _____

Mental multiplication strategies – compensation strategy

When multiplying we can round to an easier number and then adjust.
Look how we do this with 4 × 29
29 is close to 30. We can do 4 × 30 in our heads because we know 4 × 3 = 12
4 × 30 = 120
We have to take off 4 because we used one group of 4 too many: 120 – (1 × 4) = 116
4 × 29 = 116

1 **Use the compensation strategy to answer the questions. The first one has been done for you.**

a 19 × 3 = *20* × *3* – *3* = *57*

b 8 × 29 = _____ × _____ – _____ = _____

c 18 × 6 = _____ × _____ – _____ = _____

d 7 × 39 = _____ × _____ – _____ = _____

e 28 × 5 = _____ × _____ – _____ = _____

We can also adjust up. Look how we do this with 6 × 62:
62 is close to 60. We can do 6 × 60 in our heads because we know 6 × 6 = 36
6 × 60 = 360
We have to then add 2 more lots of 6: 360 + 12 = 372
6 × 62 = 372

2 **Use the compensation strategy and adjust up for these. The first one has been done for you.**

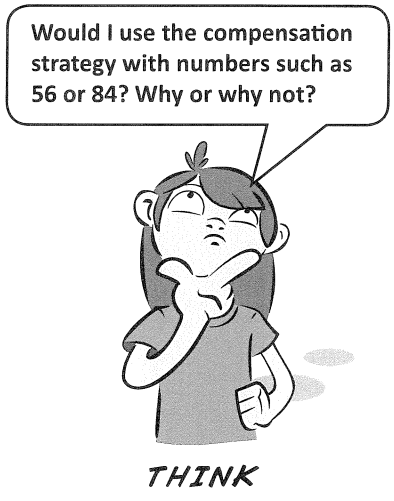
a 41 × 3 = *40* × *3* + *3* = *123*

b 81 × 4 = _____ × _____ + _____ = _____

c 22 × 9 = _____ × _____ + _____ = _____

d 32 × 9 = _____ × _____ + _____ = _____

e 7 × 62 = _____ × _____ + _____ = _____



Mental multiplication strategies – compensation strategy

3 **In this activity you'll work alongside a partner. You'll each need two dice and your own copy of this page. For each line, roll the dice to find the tens digit and then roll it again to find the multiplier. Your partner will do the same. Use the compensation strategy to mentally work out the answers to the problems.**

Tens	Units		Multiplier		Answer
	1	×		=	
	9	×		=	
	2	×		=	
	1	×		=	
	8	×		=	
	1	×		=	
	9	×		=	
	8	×		=	
	2	×		=	
	1	×		=	

a Check each other's calculations. You may want to use a calculator.

b Now, use the calculator to add your answers. The person with the highest score wins.

Mental multiplication strategies – factors and multiples

Factors are the numbers we multiply together to get to another number:

factor × factor = whole number

How many factors does the number 12 have? $4 \times 3 = 12$, $6 \times 2 = 12$, $1 \times 12 = 12$

4, 3, 6, 2, 1 and 12 are all factors of 12.

1 **List the factors of these numbers:**

a 18

b 25

c 14

d 9

e 16

f 15

g 30

h 42

2 **Fill the gaps in these sentences. The first one has been done for you.**

a *1* or *16* or *2* or *8* or *4* people can share 16 lollies evenly.

b _____ or _____ or _____ or _____ or _____ or _____ people can share 20 slices of pie evenly.

c _____ or _____ or _____ or _____ or _____ or _____ or _____ or _____ people can share 24 cherries.

d _____ or _____ or _____ or _____ or _____ or _____ or _____ or _____ people can share 30 pencils.

e _____ or _____ people can share 5 balls evenly.

3 **Use a calculator to help you find as many factors of 384 as you can:**