



Man Discovers Unexpected Treasure in Long-Held Rock

Description

In 2015, while prospecting in the Maryborough Regional Park near Melbourne, Australia, David Hole embarked on what would become a remarkable journey of discovery. Armed with a metal detector, he unearthed a peculiarly heavy, reddish rock embedded in yellow clay, a find that piqued his curiosity.

Convinced that he had stumbled upon a gold nugget—the area is historically significant for its prospecting during the 19th-century Australian gold rush—he took the specimen home. Despite his fervent attempts to dissect the rock using a rock saw, angle grinder, drill, and even acid, all efforts proved futile. Not even a sledgehammer could breach this enigma. It was only years later that Hole learned from a geologist that his extraordinary find was, in fact, a rare meteorite.

The distinctive, dimpled exterior of the rock attested to its cosmic origins. As Melbourne Museum geologist Dermot Henry elucidated in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, such features are formed as meteorites traverse Earth's atmosphere, leading to their melting and atmospheric sculpting.

Two men in a museum holding a large rock
Dermot Henry and Melbourne Museum geologist Bill Birch with the Maryborough meteorite.
(Museums Victoria)

Henry, with nearly four decades of experience examining rocks, noted that only two out of thousands had been authentic meteorites, and the Maryborough specimen was one of them.

Researchers subsequently published a scientific paper detailing the meteorite, naming it Maryborough. Weighing an impressive 17 kilograms (37.5 pounds), it was classified as an H5 ordinary chondrite, distinguished by its high iron content and the presence of tiny crystallized droplets known as chondrules.

Henry articulated the broader significance of meteorites, stating that they provide unparalleled insights into the primordial conditions of our Solar System, revealing essential clues about its age, formation, and chemistry.

The meteorite's rarity far surpasses that of gold, making it an invaluable asset for scientific inquiry. Indeed, it represents only the 17th recorded meteorite in the state of Victoria, alongside a significant history of gold finds.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Prospecting** /'prɒs.pɛk.tɪŋ/ (verb): The act of searching for valuable minerals or resources.
2. **Unearthed** /ʌn'ɜːrθd/ (verb): Discovered or brought to the surface especially after being buried.
3. **Enigma** /ɪ'nɪɡ.mə/ (noun): A person or thing that is mysterious or difficult to understand.
4. **Elucidated** /ɪ'luː.sɪ.deɪtɪd/ (verb): Made something clear; explained.



5. **Significance** /sɪɡ'nɪf.ɪ.kəns/ (noun): The importance or meaning of something.
6. **Primordial** /praɪ'mɔːr.di.əl/ (adjective): Existing at or from the beginning of time; primeval.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. Where did David Hole discover the rare meteorite?
Option: Maryborough Regional Park
Option: Great Barrier Reef
Option: Uluru
Option: Sydney Opera House
2. What type of rock did David Hole initially think he had discovered?
Option: Gold nugget
Option: Diamond
Option: Emerald
Option: Quartz crystal
3. How did David Hole try to dissect the rock?
Option: Rock saw, angle grinder, drill, acid
Option: Hammer and chisel
Option: Water erosion
Option: Explosives
4. What is the classification of the Maryborough meteorite?
Option: H5 ordinary chondrite
Option: Basalt
Option: Granite
Option: Slate
5. What do the tiny crystallized droplets in the meteorite are known as?
Option: Chondrules
Option: Gemstones
Option: Minerals
Option: Fossils



6. How many recorded meteorites are there in the state of Victoria besides the Maryborough meteorite?

Option: 16

Option: 17

Option: 18

Option: 19

True-False

7. David Hole discovered the rare meteorite in Sydney, Australia.

8. The exterior of the meteorite indicated its cosmic origins.

9. Henry stated that meteorites provide insights into the Solar System's primordial conditions.

10. The Maryborough meteorite is the 15th recorded meteorite in the state of Victoria.

11. Meteorites are more common than gold finds in the state of Victoria.

12. The Maryborough meteorite weighs 12 kilograms.

Gap-Fill

13. What were David Hole's initial attempts to dissect the rock?: Rock saw, angle grinder, drill, and _____.

14. The Maryborough meteorite is classified as an H5 ordinary chondrite due to its high iron content and the presence of tiny crystallized droplets known as _____.

15. According to Henry, meteorites provide insights into the primordial conditions of the Solar System, revealing essential clues about its age, formation, and _____.

16. The Maryborough meteorite is the _____ recorded meteorite in the state of Victoria.

17. The rarity of the Maryborough meteorite surpasses that of _____.



18. The Melbourne Museum geologist who confirmed the authenticity of the Maryborough meteorite is _____ Henry.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Maryborough Regional Park 2. Gold nugget 3. Rock saw, angle grinder, drill, acid 4. H5 ordinary chondrite 5. Chondrules 6. 17

True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. True 10. False 11. False 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. acid 14. chondrules 15. chemistry 16. 17th 17. gold 18. Dermot

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What is the process of searching for mineral deposits known as?

Option: A. Excavation

Option: B. Prospecting

Option: C. Extraction

Option: D. Refining

2. What term is used to describe the great size or extent of something?

Option: A. Diminishing

Option: B. Magnitude

Option: C. Anomaly

Option: D. Surpassing

3. Which term means successful in producing a desired or intended result?

Option: A. Contaminants

Option: B. Efficacious

Option: C. Methodology

Option: D. Potable

4. What term refers to existing at or from the beginning of time?

Option: A. Chronological

Option: B. Biases

Option: C. Primordial

Option: D. Paradigm



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5. What is the process of pouring a liquid from one container to another called?
Option: A. Adverse
Option: B. Decanting
Option: C. Timeliness
Option: D. Elucidates
6. What are prejudices or preconceived beliefs that may influence judgment called?
Option: A. Destructive
Option: B. Luminescent
Option: C. Diminishing
Option: D. Biases
7. What term describes something harmful or unfavorable?
Option: A. Anomaly
Option: B. Adverse
Option: C. Urgency
Option: D. Unearthed
8. What term refers to a system of naming or classifying things?
Option: A. Delineate
Option: B. Incursion
Option: C. Nomenclature
Option: D. Surpassing
9. Which term means exceeding or better than?
Option: A. Methodology
Option: B. Paradigm
Option: C. Surpassing
Option: D. Significance
10. What best describes information that is not connected or applicable to the current topic?
Option: A. Pertinent
Option: B. Unearthed
Option: C. Irrelevant
Option: D. Efficacious

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. _____ are undesirable substances that pollute the environment.
12. Completing tasks with _____ is important to meet deadlines.



13. The sudden _____ of enemy troops caught the soldiers off guard.
14. Wildfires can have _____ effects on forests and wildlife.
15. The doctor emphasized the _____ of seeking immediate medical attention.
16. The professor _____ complex theories for the students to understand.
17. The new software features a _____ algorithm for data analysis.
18. It is important to be aware of personal _____ when making impartial decisions.
19. The unusual weather pattern was considered an _____ by meteorologists.
20. The discovery of ancient artifacts held great _____ for archaeologists.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The disappearance of the plane remains an unresolved .
22. According to the myth the dragon guarded a treasure hidden deep in the forest.
23. She was known for her attention to detail in her artwork.
24. Despite the he remained optimistic about the outcome.
25. After filtration the water was deemed for drinking.
26. The scientist explained the experimental used in the study.
27. In journalism delivering news with is crucial to keep the audience informed.
28. The jellyfish illuminated the dark waters of the ocean.
29. The professor the complex mathematical problem step by step.
30. The earthquake's was measured on the Richter scale.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. B. Prospecting 2. B. Magnitude 3. B. Efficacious 4. C. Primordial 5. B. Decanting 6. D. Biases



7. B. Adverse 8. C. Nomenclature 9. C. Surpassing 10. C. Irrelevant

Gap-Fill: 11. Contaminants 12. Timeliness 13. Incursion 14. Destructive 15. Urgency 16. Elucidates
17. Sophisticated 18. Biases 19. Anomaly 20. Significance

Matching sentence: 1. Enigma 2. Primordial 3. Meticulous 4. Circumstances 5. Potable 6. Methodology
7. Timeliness 8. Luminescent 9. Elucidated 10. Magnitude

CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL6

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