

# Historical Memory

## Pedagogical and formative goals

This activity brings pupils to develop a complex of cognitive procedures that ground historical thinking, which are called 'theming process' or 'thematizing'.

Thematizing means to collect all the elements that seems to show a thematic pertinence, as they look referable to the same: subject, period, place, or that are characterised by the occurrence of the same action, or by different actions that developed with the same modality or for the same reason. So, the core of a process of thematization is the ability to detect some aspects of pertinence, similarity, or identity in different elements.

Our pupils need to train their thematizing competence, with efficiency an flexibility, moving along the timeline and being able to reorganize their thematic categories according to the temporal perspective they adopted.

This activity aims to train this skill in them and has been designed to be played in groups and to fit into a 2h lesson, as showed in the timetable here aside.

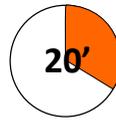


**Clio '92**

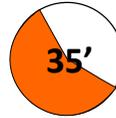
Associazione di insegnanti e ricercatori per la didattica della Storia

*Games and Civilizations is a gamified course of history for primary school, designed on behalf of Clio '92 by Marco Tibaldini. For further information: [segreteria@clio92.it](mailto:segreteria@clio92.it)*

## Timetable of the activity



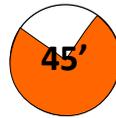
Split the class into 4 groups, place them at the corner of the room. Provide each of them with 2 copies of the cards and ask them to cut the cards off and throw away the remains of the sheets.



When all the groups are ready, they can place the cards face down on the desk and play 'Memory'. In the meanwhile, assign a color or a name to each group and draw on the blackboard a chart like this one:




Stop the game and ask pupils to split their cards into 2 identical decks. Retire one and leave them the other explaining that it hides 6 sequences of 4 cards each: could they identify them? When a group think they found a sequence, they have to raise the hand attracting your attention.

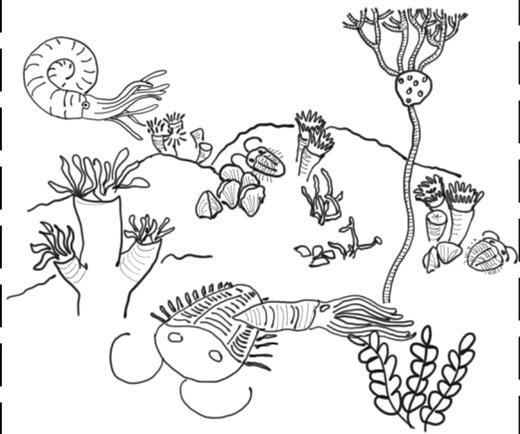


A new game: give officially a start to this exciting new activity. Pay attention, is crucial that you, as teacher, don't give any hints or suggestions, otherwise the 'gaming atmosphere' will suddenly end. When they submit you some sequence, you can only answer saying how many cards are right and how many are wrong, or that all the cards are correct, but in the wrong order. When a group successfully identify a sequence, take care of marking on the blackboard 3 scores under their symbol or color.



10 minutes before the end of the lesson stop the game, gather the class in front of the blackboard and patch all the cards in order into the chart asking at the whole class to give a title to each sequence.

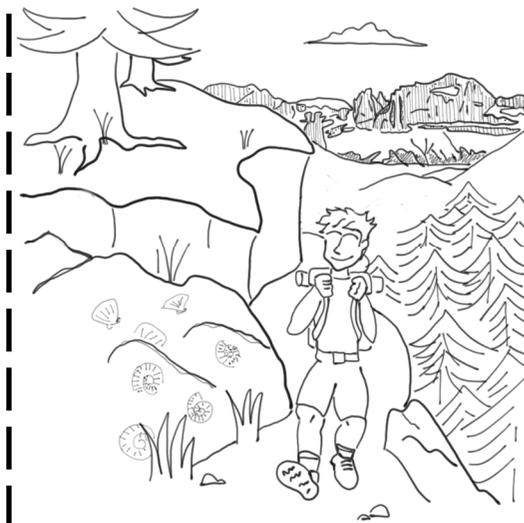
In this way they shape a thematic category starting from factual data and attributing them a conceptual definition, exactly like archaeologists do when they found several objects in a site and must try to give them an interpretation.



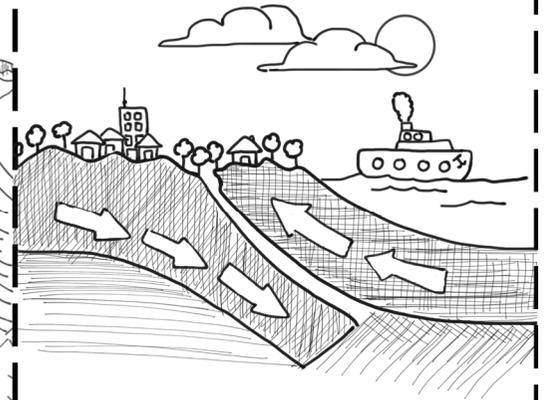
540 million years ago the oceans filled with life forms



Life in the oceans left on countless animal and plant remains that became fossils



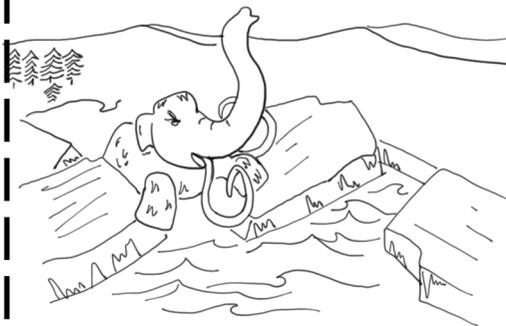
because of the movements of the Earth's crust, today we easily happen to find fossils of marine animals in the mountains



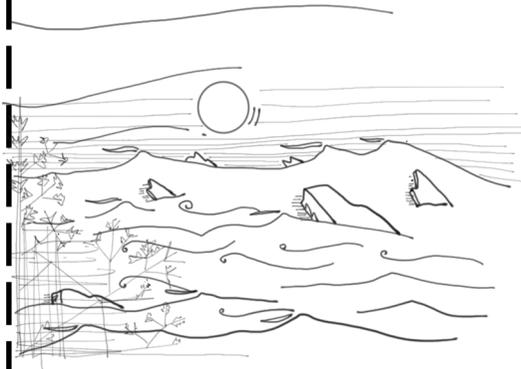
Earth's crustal plates move constantly espousing mountains and sea, and sometimes reversing them to place



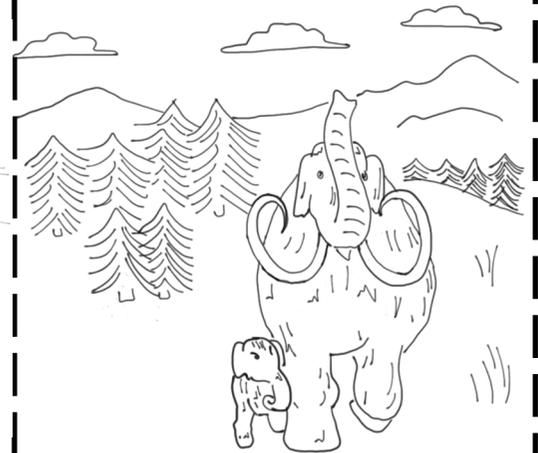
polar glaciers, they never loose and preserved the traces of the climate change, so today are great sources of information



12000 years ago the Earth's climate is warming up and ended the ice age



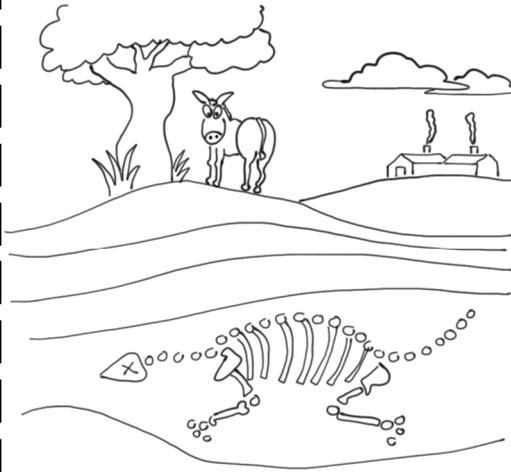
110000 years ago began the last ice age and the planet was partly covered by ice



some life forms adapted to new climatic conditions



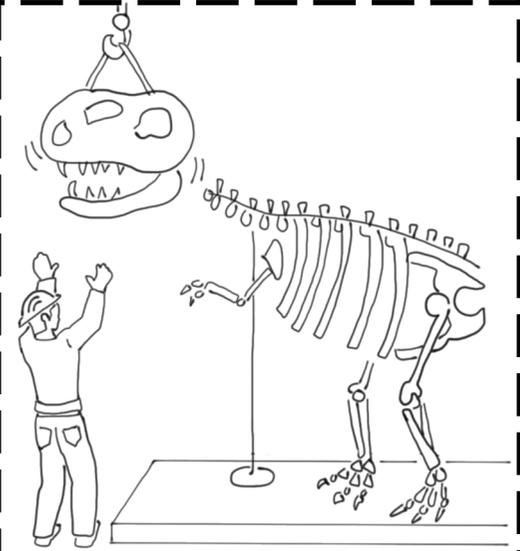
For more than 160 million years, the Earth was inhabited by dinosaurs, who settled here completely



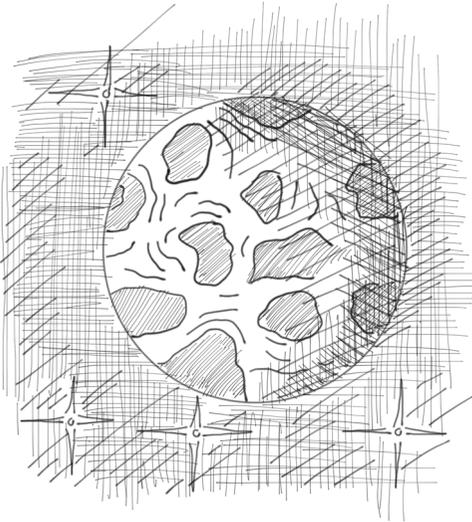
the long stay of the dinosaurs on Earth, he left numerous fossil remains scattered across the planet



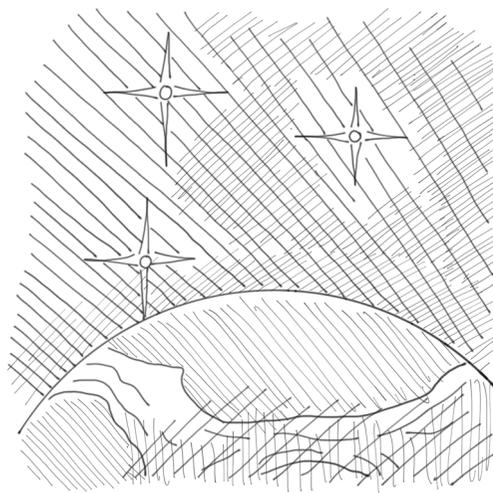
fossilized dinosaurs were discovered in China along many centuries. They were consider the rests of mythological dragons, and their bones were sold as medicines



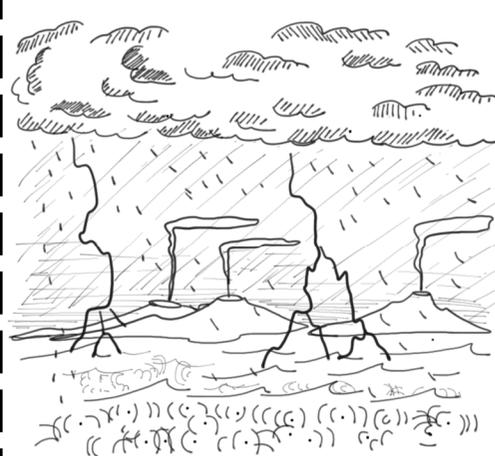
Today, the fossils of dinosaurs are excavated by palaeontologists, then preserved and exhibited in the museums



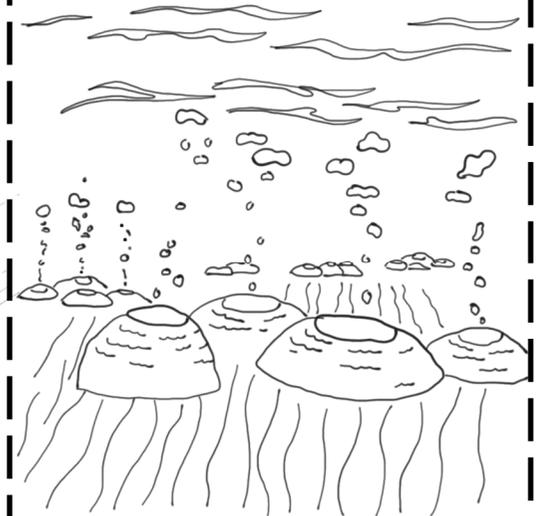
At the time of his birth, the Earth was a sphere of magma that revolved around the Sun



the crust of the Earth began to cool and solidify. Different materials and elements began to stratify



the cooling of the Earth's crust resulted in the condensation of water vapor, which formed clouds, initiating rains and storms



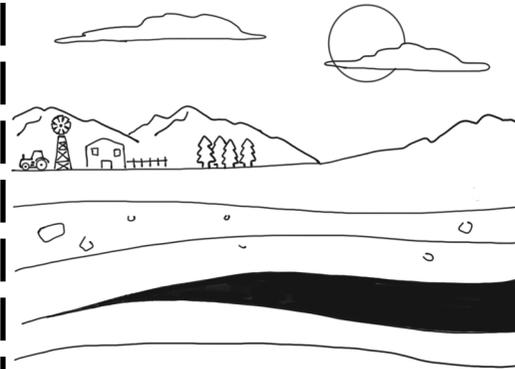
the presence of water, and cooling temperatures, led to the birth of the first living organisms, which evolved in the oceans



about 300 million years ago, the hot and humid climate, and the large amount of carbon dioxide, led to the development of giant trees



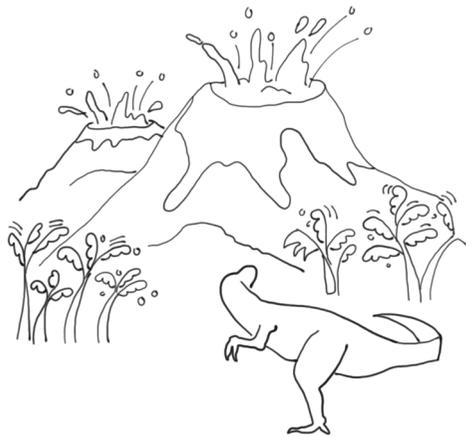
When those giant trees fell down, in particular conditions they didn't decomposed and formed huge deposits



giant prehistoric forests, and their remains were buried because of the movements of the Earth's crust and turned into carbon



Despite is not a renewable source, and highly polluting, coal is one of the most widely used fossil fuel in power plants



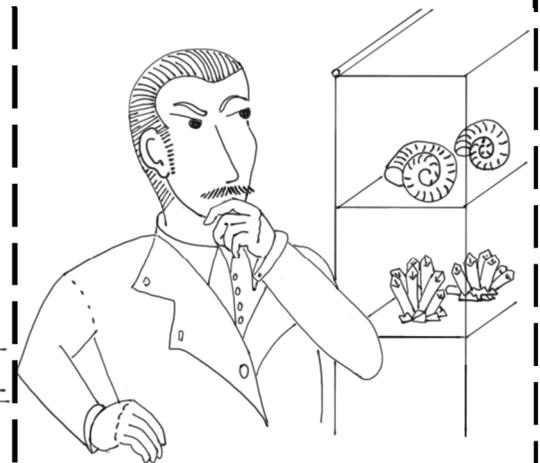
continents are constantly shifting causing earthquakes and volcanic eruptions



200 million years ago, the continents were joined together, then separated



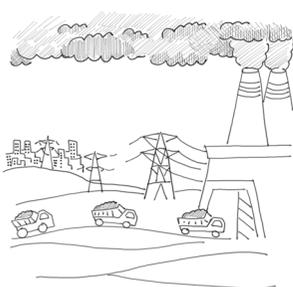
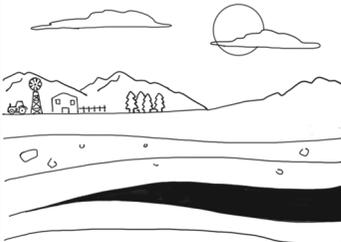
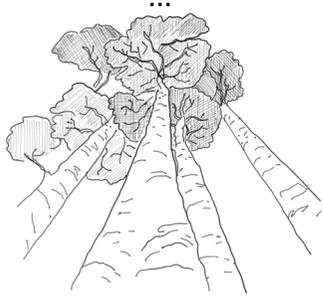
400 years ago, a Dutch geographer, noticed that the shape of South America and Africa seems to match



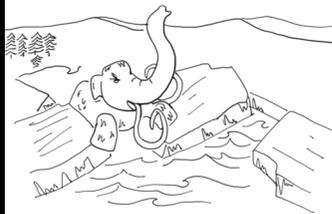
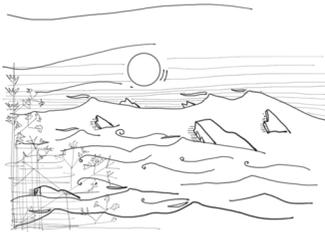
100 years ago, a German Explorer, found that some fossils have been found both in Africa and South America

# Teacher's page with the solutions

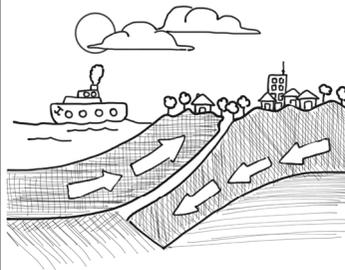
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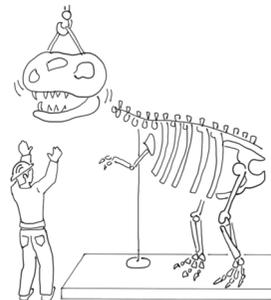
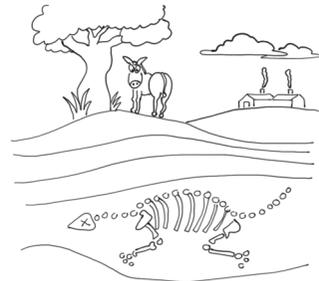
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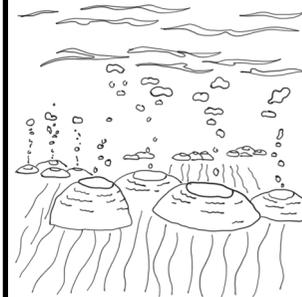
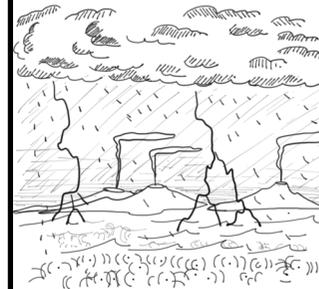
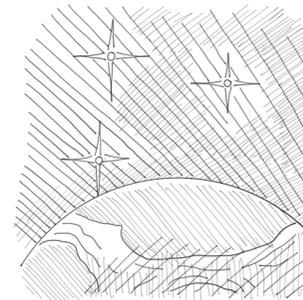
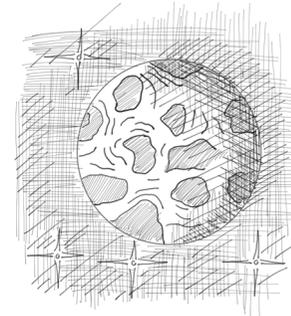
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