

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS



weird but true!





2024



wild & wacky
facts & photos!

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Contents



CHAPTER 1
AMAZING EARTH 8

Crossing the continents 10
The middle of nowhere 12
The art of erosion 14
Funky fungus facts. 16
Mirror world 18
Earth from above 20
Making a splash... 22
Cool caves 24
Hit the Ocean Road 26
All about the Andes... 28



CHAPTER 2
STEP BACK IN TIME 30

From Prince to King 32
A question of sport 34
Who wants to be a Roman?. 36
Meet the bog people 38
Air aces. 40
Evolution of music 42



CHAPTER 3
INCREDIBLE CREATURES 44

Penguin pals. 46
Tennis balls turned into tiny homes 48
A sixth sense?. 50
All in the eyes 52
Fat bear week. 54
Are you talking to me? 56
Creatures of the night 58
Elephant miners of Mount Elgon 60
Whose poo? 62
Peculiar pooches 64
Brilliant body parts 66

CHAPTER 4
SUPER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY 68

Particle party 70
Cockroach cyborgs 72
Droning on 74
Going for gold 76
Weird water... Why don't icebergs sink?. . . . 78
Beam me up! 80
Have fun in your smart home 82





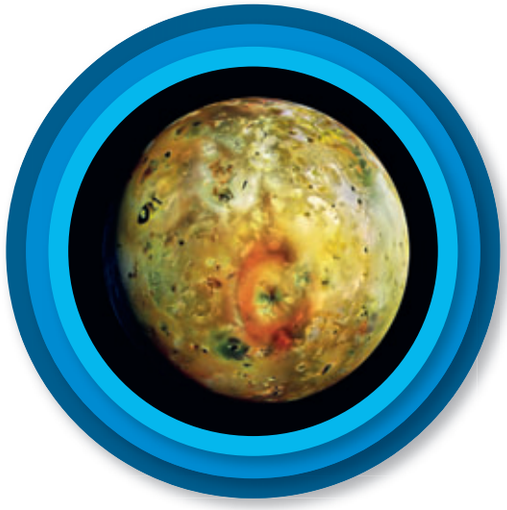
CHAPTER 5
SPECTACULAR STRUCTURES 84

Dubai – city of awesome architecture 86
Palace of bubbles. 88
Time tellers 90
Bridge records 92
Ten on termite mounds 94
Weird wonders of the world. 96

CHAPTER 6
GET A MOVE ON! 98

Airlander – the future of flight?. 100
Traffic chaos. 102
Bizarre buses 104
Random rules of the road 106
The graveyard of the Atlantic 108
Cool canals. 110





CHAPTER 7
OUT OF THIS WORLD 112

Third rock from the Sun 114
The Pillars of Creation. 116
Houston, we have a problem... 118
Just like home 120
The day the universe changed. 122
Colours of the cosmos 124
Space dwarfs 126
To the Moon and back 128



CHAPTER 8
SPORTING SUPERSTARS 130

Paris Olympics then and now. 132
Fun on four wheels. 134
Sport of wizards 136
Sporting firsts 138
Strange sporting superstitions 140
Dive in the deep end. 142
The future of football? 144



CHAPTER 9
COOLLY CREATIVE 146

Sing it loud! 148
Outdoor art 150
Bryan Berg card architect!. 152
Potty for pottery 154
Don't judge a book by its cover 156
Who are you? 158
Singing in the rain 160



CHAPTER 10
GRUB'S UP! 162

Brilliant biscuits 164
Unique food festivals 166
Blooming chocolate 168
Bring on the bread 170
Do you believe these superstitions? 172
Food confusion 174
Sweet talk 176
Eat in or takeaway? 178
Chopsticks that trick your tastebuds 180

CHAPTER 11
HUMAN BODY 182

You can't! 184
Remember this! 186
Your magnificent muscles 188
Get glowing 190
Hair-raising facts 192
Look into the eyes 194
The power of a smile 196





CHAPTER 12
GRUESOMELY GROSS 198

Super snot & sneeze snippets!. 200
Bad animal habits 202
Sewer monster 204
Tudor toilet attendants 206
They kept what? 208
Uninvited guests 210
Words we hate to hear! 212

CHAPTER 13
EVERYTHING ON THE ENVIRONMENT 214

The rise and fall of climate change 216
Cleaning up the garbage patch 218
Back to the wild 220
Waste not, want not 222
Eco-living 224
A shot at saving Earth. 226



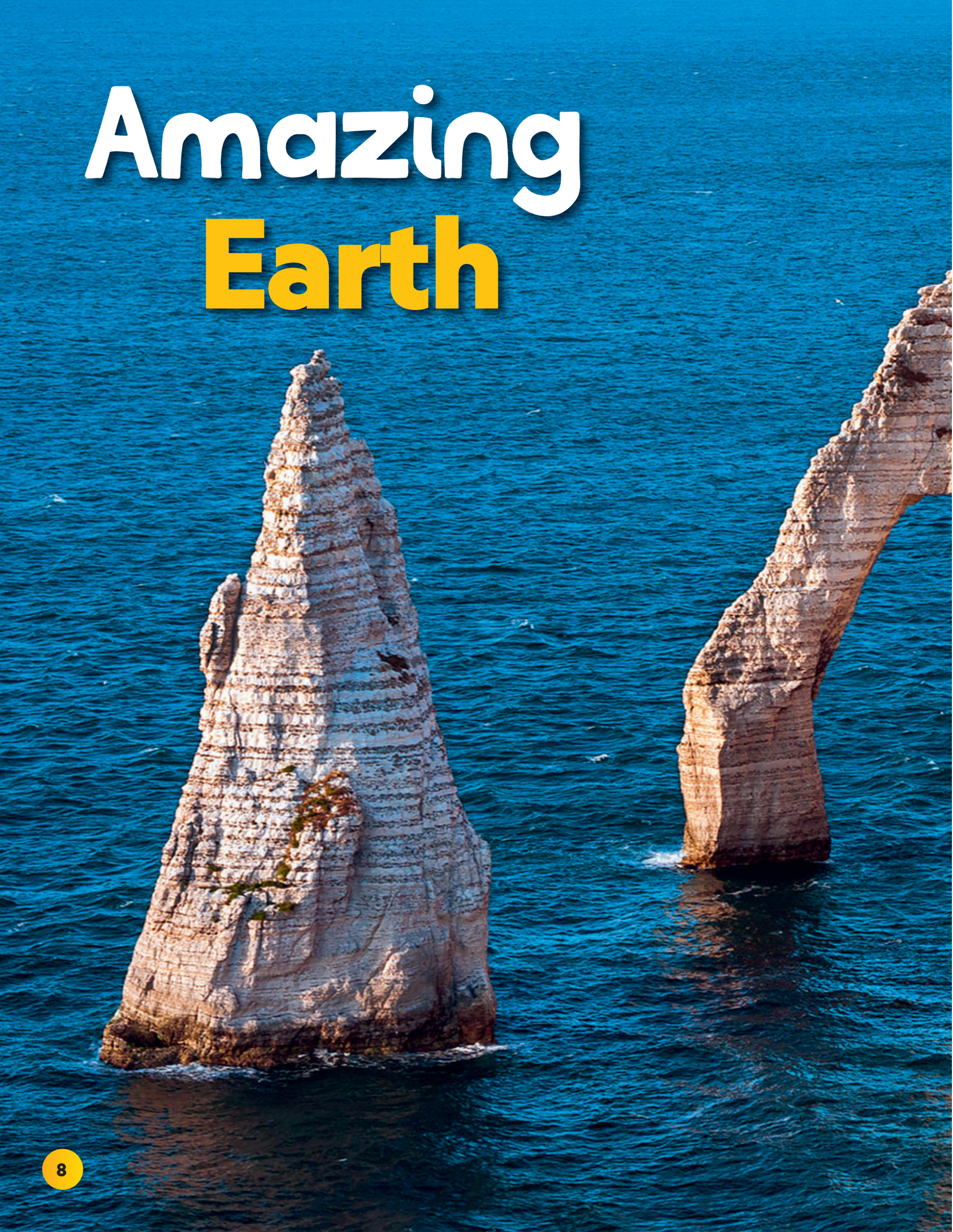


CHAPTER 14
BY THE NUMBERS 228

Ten on 24 230
A world of numbers 232
What's on your mind? 234
Moon maths. 236
Leg count 238
It all adds up to Ancient Egypt!. 240
Get in the game 242

INDEX. 244
IMAGE CREDITS 254

Amazing Earth





CHAPTER 1

The **ARCHES OF ÉTRETAT,** in France, are so famous that they've been **PAINTED** by artists including **MONET** and have featured in **FILMS** and **BOOKS!**

Travel over to page 14 to see more effects of erosion.

Crossing the CONTINENTS

ALL EARTH

Once upon a time, all the land on Earth was joined together in a supercontinent called Pangaea. It began to split apart about 200 million years ago, during the age of the dinosaurs.





QUARTERS OF A CONTINENT

Africa is the only continent to cover all four hemispheres – northern, southern, eastern and western. The Equator splits Africa between north and south. Another invisible line known as the prime meridian divides east and west.



GIANT JIGSAW

The shape of the continents still shows how they once fit together like a huge jigsaw puzzle. For example, the ins and outs of the east coast of South America would fit pretty neatly with the outs and ins of the west coast of Africa if you pushed them together!



A DIVIDED CITY

In Istanbul, Turkey, you can go shopping on two continents in a matter of minutes! A road bridge spans the Bosphorus Strait that separates the Asian and European sides of the city.

THE LOST CONTINENT

Lying mostly underwater in the South Pacific Ocean is a huge area of continental crust called Zealandia. At over half the size of Australia, some scientists think that it should officially be the eighth continent.



SMALLEST OR BIGGEST?

An island is defined as a piece of land that's completely surrounded by water, but is smaller than a continent. Australia would be the largest island in the world – if it wasn't already the smallest continent.



Did you KNOW?

The continents move at a speed of about 1.5 cm a year – that's about as fast as your toenails grow!

The middle of NOWHERE

In the **PACIFIC OCEAN,** far away from anywhere, is a place that **SCIENTISTS** call the **'OCEANIC POLE OF INACCESSIBILITY'.** It's better known as **POINT NEMO –** a word that means **'NO ONE'** in Latin, which gives you a clue to its **CLAIM TO FAME.**

Did you KNOW?

Point Nemo is named after Captain Nemo from the book *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, by Jules Verne.*

Totally WEIRD!

In 1997, a really loud noise was recorded in this remote region of the Pacific. This mysterious sound was nicknamed the 'Bloop', and for years scientists wondered what it could be. Eventually, they realised it was the sound of icebergs cracking!



Surrounded by more than 1,600 kilometres of ocean in every direction, this is the most remote place on the planet. In fact, the nearest humans to Point Nemo are the astronauts on the International Space Station when it passes by, 400 kilometres above Earth!

There's not even much marine life at Point Nemo. It lies in the middle of a huge, swirling current called the South Pacific Gyre. This moves nutrients away from the area so that it is almost impossible for ocean plants and animals to survive there. Some hardy bacteria are among the few types of life known to exist there.

This empty part of the Pacific does have its uses though. Because it's so far away from human habitation, space agencies like NASA can safely dump their debris there. Lots of space junk has already crashed down near Point Nemo, including the Russian space station Mir. The International Space Station will also end up there one day. Welcome to Point Nemo – spacecraft graveyard!

THE ART OF erosion

Over millions of years, wind and water have carved out some unusual sculptures in the natural landscape.

CHALK STATUES

The White Desert in Egypt looks like a snowy landscape, but it gets its colour from chalk! Large chalk rock formations dot the desert like a huge sculpture park. The rocks have been shaped over centuries by wind and grinding sand.



A TREE OF STONE

High in the Siloli Desert in Bolivia stands a tree made of stone—the Árbol de Piedra. It was formed by strong, cold winds blowing grains of sand. The grains have worn away the softer rock lower down more quickly than the harder rock at the top to leave the shape of a tree.





A BASALT ELEPHANT

On the island of Heimaey in Iceland, the basalt rock left over from cooling lava has formed an unusual shape—an elephant dipping its trunk in the water. The texture of the grey rock looks just like wrinkly elephant skin, and it has even worn away in the right place to form an eye!

SANDSTONE GLOVES

The Mittens, in Monument Valley, USA, are both a type of landform called a butte. The two pillars of sandstone have been worn away in similar shapes, like a pair of mittens with their sticking-up thumbs facing each other!





A GRANITE WAVE

Wave Rock in Australia is a 14-metre-high granite cliff. The cliff face has been weathered away to form a curve that makes it look like a huge wave about to come crashing down. Rain leaves stripes down the rock, making it look even more like water.

Funky FUNGUS FACTS



Some mushrooms
GLOW IN THE DARK.
Some scientists think mushrooms use this 'foxfire' to attract insects, which then spread the mushroom spores around to help them reproduce.

Did you KNOW?

You're covered in fungus! Around 200 different types of fungi live on your feet alone.

Scientists think there may be as many as **3.8 MILLION TYPES OF FUNGI** on Earth, but they estimate that more than 90 per cent of them haven't been discovered yet!



Fungi are what make **CHEESES** such as Camembert and Stilton ripen. They cause the white mould skin and the blue mould veins in these cheeses.



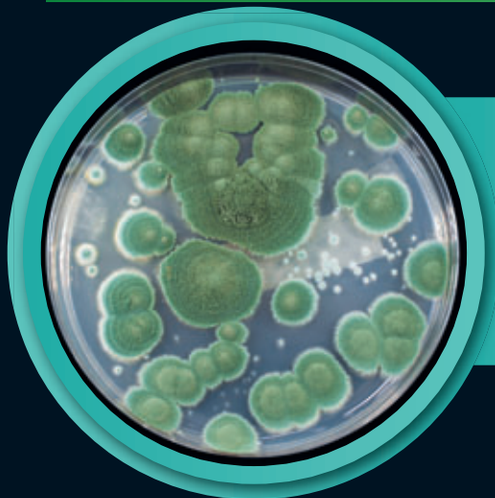
The **MOST POISONOUS MUSHROOM** is the death cap mushroom, *Amanita phalloides*. It causes liver failure and even death if eaten.



The prince, yellow stainer, destroying angel, jelly ear, slippery Jack, stinkhorn, grey knight and penny bun are all **TYPES OF MUSHROOMS** found in the UK.

YOU'RE MORE LIKE A FUNGUS THAN YOU THINK!

Like animals – and unlike plants – fungi take in oxygen and release carbon dioxide.



Fungi can **CAUSE INFECTIONS** such as ringworm and athlete's foot. But they can also **CURE INFECTIONS,** as some fungi produce antibiotics such as penicillin.