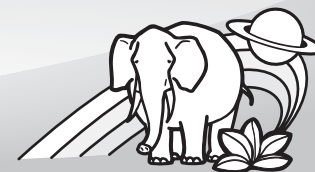
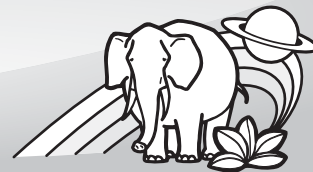


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A New Land

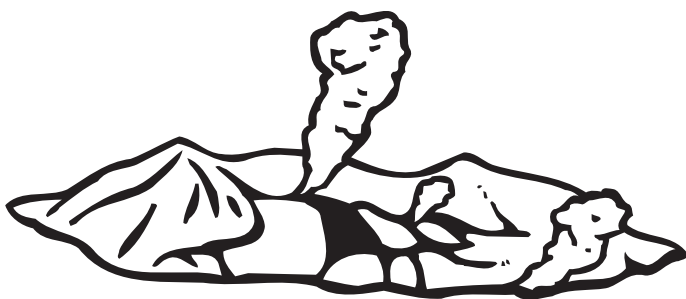
A man from Iceland was in a boat. It was November 14, 1963. He was fishing in the icy sea. He saw smoke. The smoke was rising from the icy water. The man did not know what it was. There were no other boats nearby. There were no other people near by. What could it be?

The man was seeing the birth of an island. At the bottom of the sea, a volcano was erupting. The Earth's crust had shifted. Underneath the icy sea, a crack had formed. Gases and molten rock inside the earth were pushed to the crack. Bits of rocks were blown high into the air. A new land was made in one day. The new land was an island. The island was made of volcanic rock.

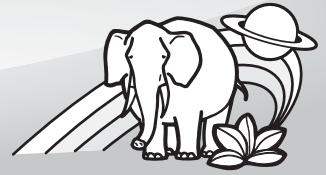


The island was near Iceland. It was called Surtsey. Surtsey was named after Surtur. Surtur was the Norse fire god. Scientists liked the island. They could study how new land evolved or developed. They could study how bare rock could change to a place where plants and animals could live. No one could go to the island but scientists.

Scientists saw birds on the island. The birds landed on Surtsey when it was only a few weeks old. Birds are important. They help new land to evolve and change. Their droppings have nutrients. They help make it so that soil can form. They help spread seeds to the island. Ten different kinds of birds nest on the island today.



Scientists found tiny animals. Many of the animals could only be seen through a microscope. Some animals floated to the island. Some animals came on the wind. Others were brought to the island by birds. Scientists looked at plants, too. They saw when the first plants grew on the



A New Land

After reading the story, answer the questions.
Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

- This story is mainly about
 - Iceland.
 - a new land.
 - a fisherman.
 - plants and animals.
- What is NOT one of the ways tiny animals got to the island?
 - They came on the wind.
 - They floated on the water.
 - They were brought to the island by birds.
 - They were brought to the island by scientists.
- Think about how the word **bird** relates to **wing**. Which words relate in the same way?

bird : wing

 - man : arm
 - dog : fur
 - head : hat
 - tree : plant
- On what day did the fisherman see smoke?
 - January 24, 1963
 - January 17, 1963
 - November 14, 1963
 - November 17, 1963
- What does the word *evolve* mean?
 - to study
 - to develop
 - to spread seeds
 - to be very small