

How was this possible? A mysterious dust, like a sandstorm, had swept across towns and cities neighboring the world's deserts - everything within its path had been turned to stone: solid. People, as well as objects, were frozen like statues where they had been caught out by this unfamiliar dust which had vanished as quickly as it had arrived.

Scientists had no ideas, or explanations of what this was, or if it would happen again, but people checked the skies before venturing out.

Bizarrely, the dust had completely vanished, nothing was left to analyse. Together, the world watched and waited.



1. Imagine going outside and seeing this. How would you describe it?
2. What do you think the dust was? Where might it have come from?
3. How do you think people living near to deserts would be feeling? Explain why.
4. What advice would you give to people living in these areas?
5. What might people do next to protect themselves ?

A Starter for 10

Be a detective.



Research Pompeii and what happened in Ancient Roman times. How is it similar to this story?
Where are the deserts in the world? Can you find them on a map? Which is the largest?
What is special about the McMurdo dry valleys?
How are sandstorms formed? How high are they? How far does the sand travel?
Where was the largest sandcastle ever made? How tall was it? Can you find it on a map?