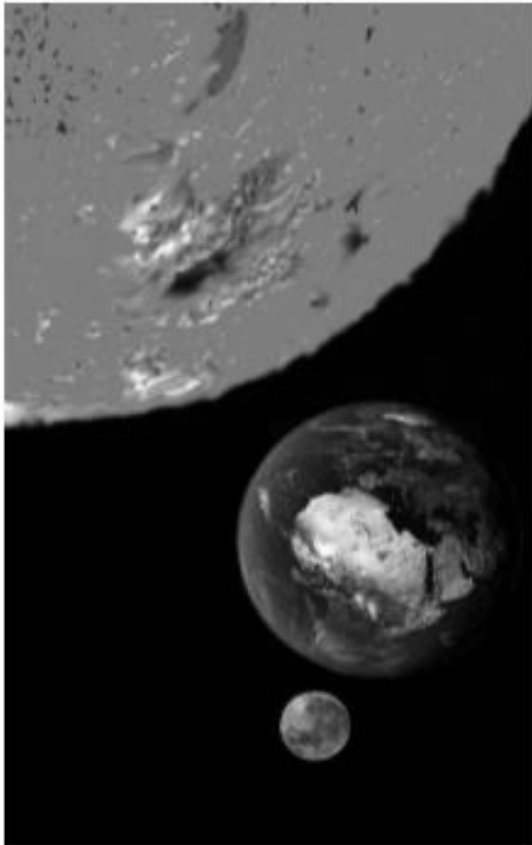


READING COMPREHENSION TASKS

SUN, EARTH AND MOON

Read this information about the Sun, Earth and Moon. Then look at the meanings given in the table below. Find the relevant words in the text.



At the centre of our solar system is our nearest star, the Sun. It is composed mainly of two gases: hydrogen and helium. Approximately one million Earths would fit inside the Sun. It takes 365 days for our planet to orbit the Sun.

The Earth has its own satellite: the Moon. Its orbit of the Earth takes 27.3 days. It is not a source of light. Instead it reflects light from the Sun. Recent discoveries have shown that the Moon has some atmosphere, but no air we could breathe. Scientists believe that its craters were caused by the impact of meteorites hitting its surface.

The Earth is one of eight planets orbiting the Sun. (Pluto was once classified as a planet until recently.) One significant feature of the Earth is that about 71% of its surface is covered with water. Water is an essential requirement for life.

Now find words that have the meanings shown in the table:

meaning	word
be made of	
almost exactly	
take a path round an object in space	
an object in space that revolves round a planet	
the gases surrounding a planet or moon	
the striking of one thing against another	
identified as part of a group	
important	
absolutely necessary	

RHINOS

Read this information about rhinoceroses, then complete the table below, explaining what the words mean. If you're unsure, read the relevant sentence again.



You can identify members of the rhinoceros family by their large dimensions, their diet of plants, and thick, protective hide. Although the skin may resemble armour-plating, it is very sensitive to sunburn and insect bites. This is the reason they wallow around in mud, which acts as extra protection.

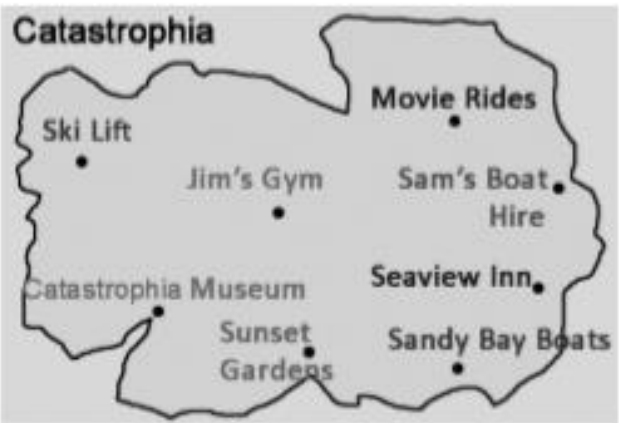
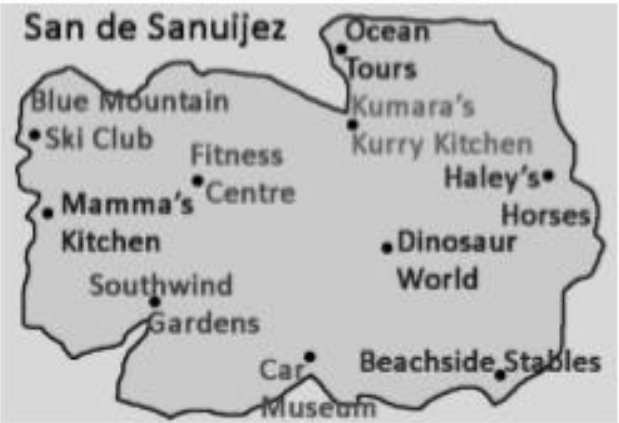
The name *rhinoceros* comes from two Greek words: *rhino* (nose) and *ceros* (horn). Rhino horns are not bone and continue to grow throughout their lifetime. Horns are composed of a protein called keratin, which is the same substance that hair and fingernails are made from.

Rhinos have well-developed senses of hearing and smell, but poor eyesight. If you were to stand motionless, even as close as thirty metres away, you might not be detected (unless you smelled awful). If you were to make a sound, however, you would immediately be in danger. In that situation, finding a tree to climb is a better strategy than trying to outrun them. They can run at between 30 and 40 mph!

word	meaning
identify	
dimensions	
protective	
hide	
diet	
resemble	
wallow	
composed	
substance	
continue	
detected	
strategy	

ISLAND RETREATS

Look at the holiday centres on these islands and, if they can offer what is shown in the table below, give it a **tick**.



activity	Lenzauro	Marjarina	San de Sanuijez	Catastrophia
museums				
tropical gardens				
theme parks				
boat trips				
sports centres				
restaurants				
ski slopes				
riding clubs				