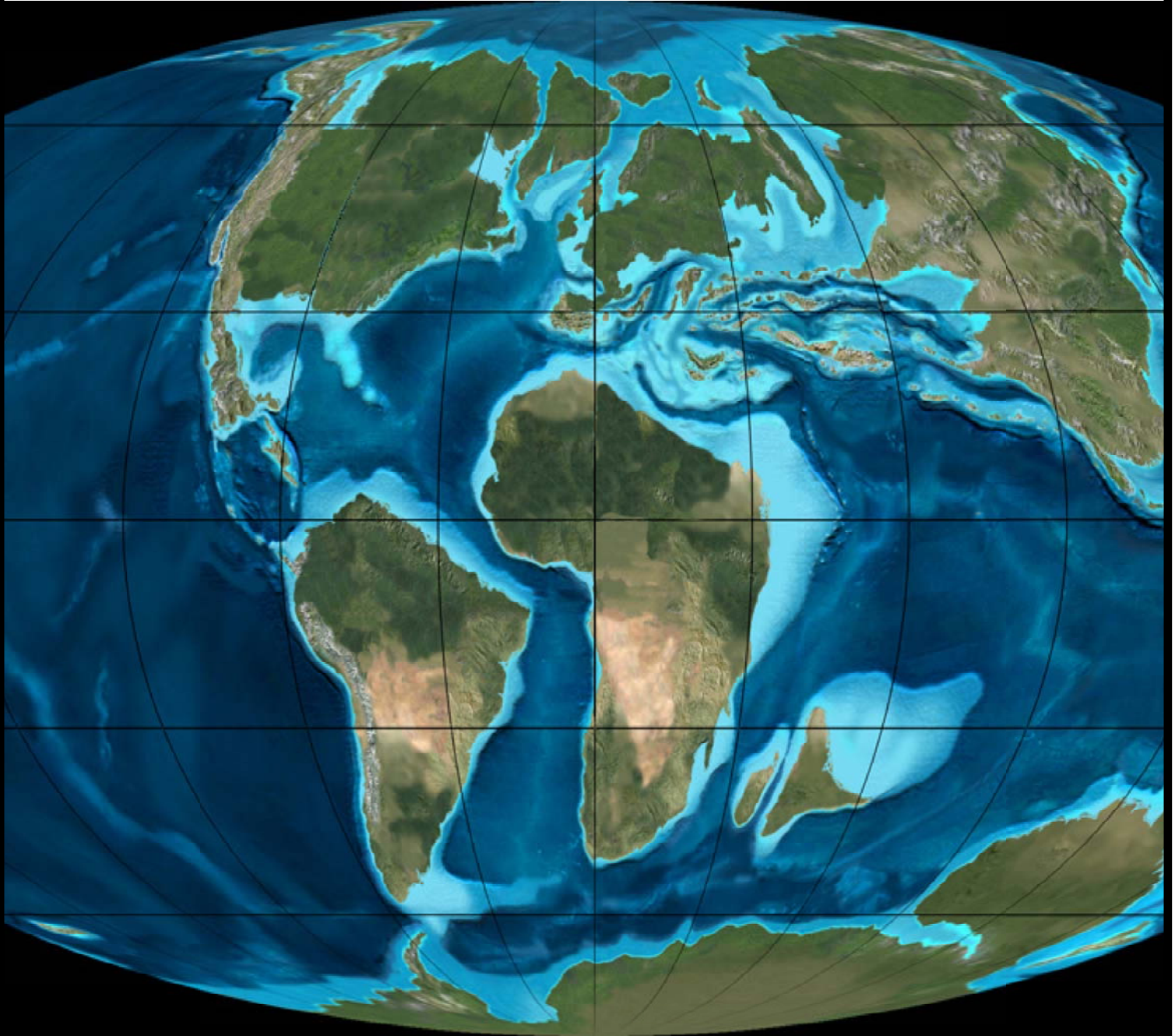


END OF THE LAST ICE AGE



DID YOU KNOW? During the most recent ice age, average temperatures in Ireland would have been around -34°C in winter and only $3-12^{\circ}\text{C}$ in summer!

ATLANTIC OCEAN OPENS



DID YOU KNOW? The Atlantic Ocean is spreading at a rate of about 2.5 cm per year - roughly the speed your fingernails grow!

FIRST HUMANS



DID YOU KNOW? Our species, *Homo sapiens*, is the only species of human today, but in the recent geological past there were up to three different species of *Homo* alive at the same time!

FIRST DINOSAURS



DID YOU KNOW? The word "dinosaur" means "fearfully great lizard". Unlike some famous dinosaurs like *Tyrannosaurus rex*, the oldest dinosaurs were small - the size of kangaroos - and ate plants.

FIRST OXYGEN IN THE ATMOSPHERE



DID YOU KNOW? Oxygen was not always present in the atmosphere. It built up slowly over time thanks to bacteria - which released it as a waste product!

CLIFFS OF MOHER ROCKS FORM



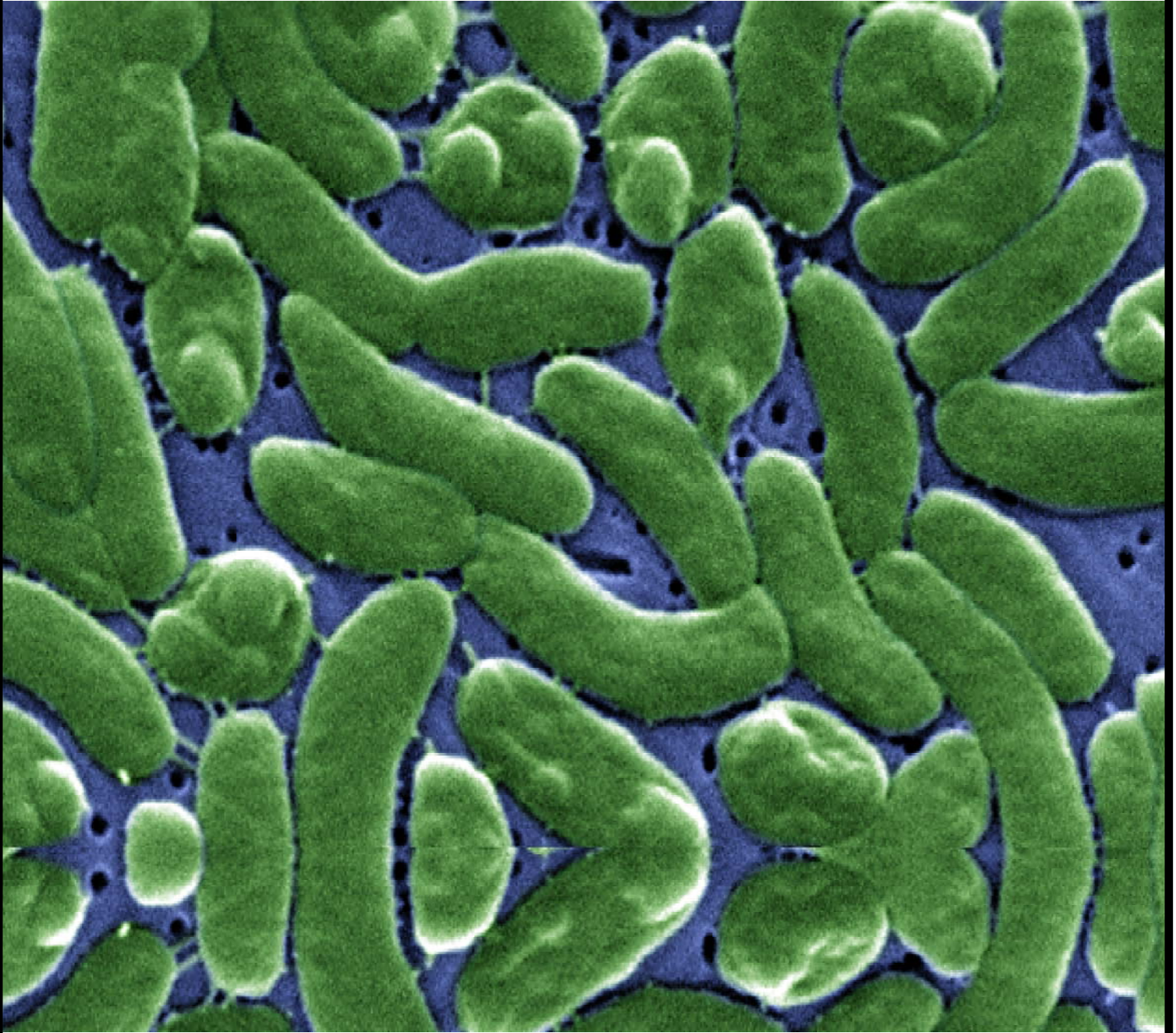
DID YOU KNOW? The rocks at the Cliffs of Moher were laid down in a delta, where a massive river flowed out into a tropical sea.

BURREN ROCKS FORM



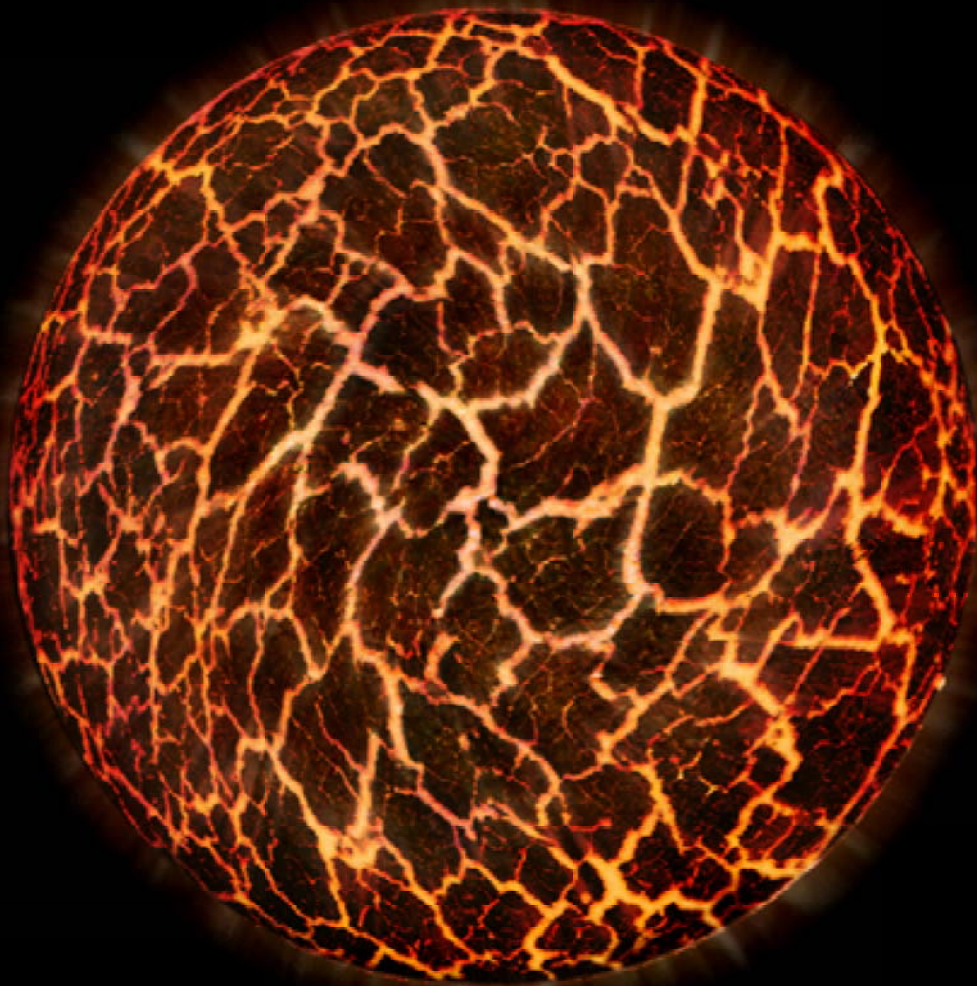
DID YOU KNOW? The rocks of the Burren formed in a shallow tropical sea filled with animals with hard shells and skeletons, such as corals, sea lilies and shellfish.

FIRST LIFE ON EARTH



DID YOU KNOW? The first life forms on Earth were probably bacteria. They thrived in the environment of the early Earth, which had high temperatures and nasty chemicals that would kill us today!

EARTH'S CRUST FORMS



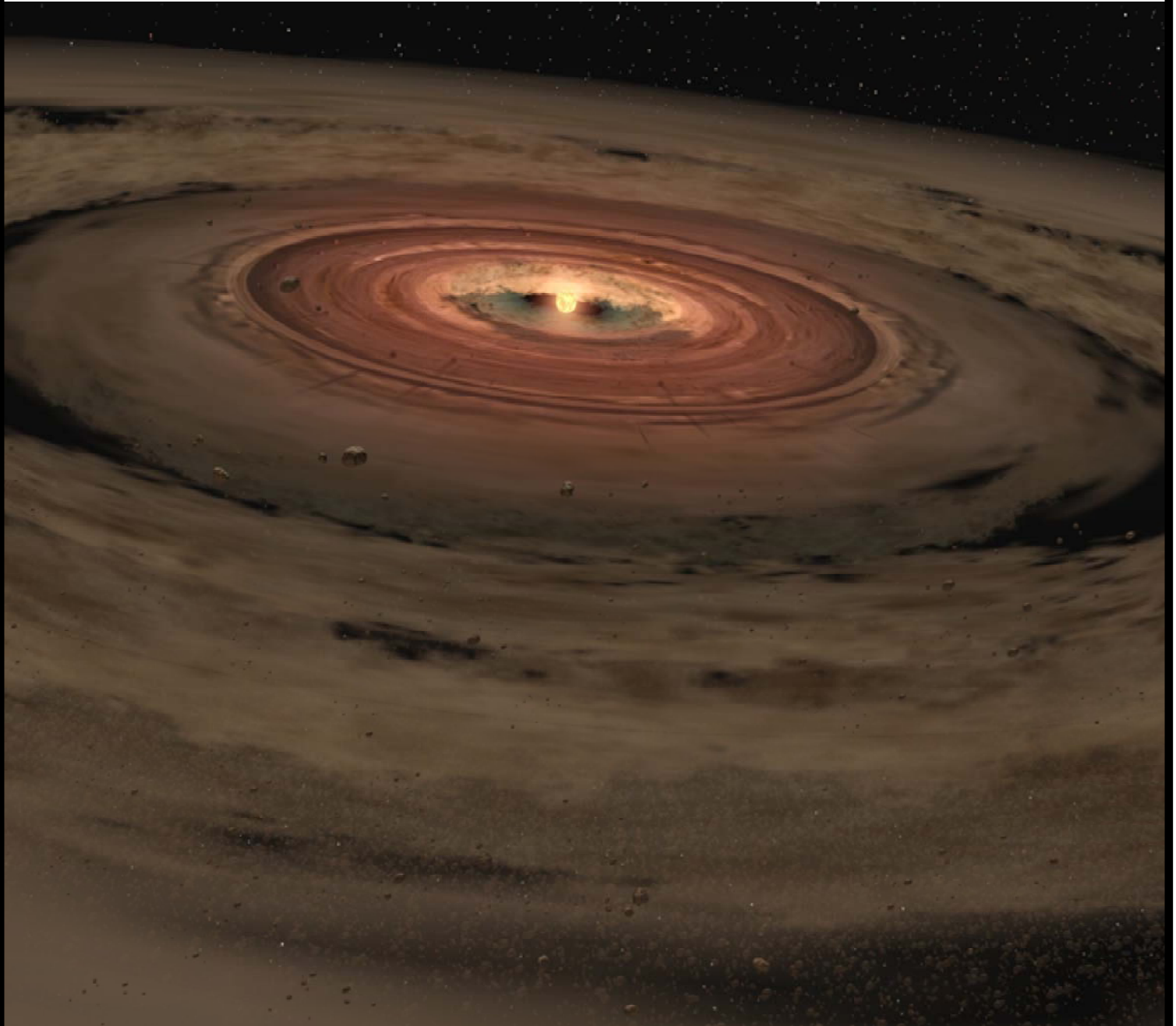
DID YOU KNOW? The Earth's crust did not begin to form until the planet's surface cooled to about $1,200^{\circ}\text{C}$ - the same temperature as hot basalt lava erupted by volcanoes today.

FORMATION OF THE MOON



DID YOU KNOW? The moon probably formed when a giant asteroid crashed into the early Earth - "The Big Splash"! Vast amounts of molten rock would have been blasted out into space and then clumped together to form the Moon.

BIRTH OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM



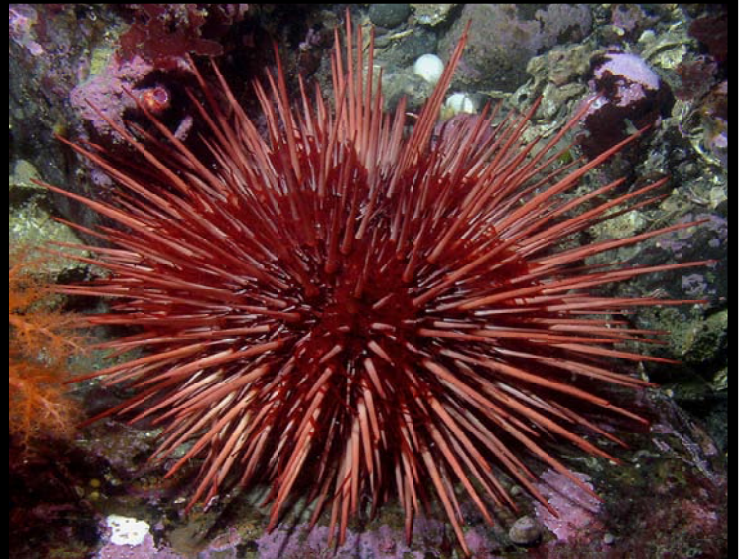
DID YOU KNOW? Our solar system was created from an immense cloud of interstellar gas and dust that began to clump together, probably after it was shaken by a cosmic shockwave after a nearby star exploded!

FIRST LIFE ON LAND



DID YOU KNOW? The first forms of life on land were plants, not animals! Some of the first plants were horsetails, which you can still find today in wet, marshy places.

FIRST ANIMALS WITH HARD SKELETONS



DID YOU KNOW? The first animals were probably soft worm-like creatures that burrowed through sediment. Animals evolved hard shells and skeletons only later, probably to protect themselves from predators.

FIRST OZONE LAYER



DID YOU KNOW? Ozone is made of oxygen and absorbs harmful UV radiation from the sun which can damage our DNA. Without ozone, living things could survive only in the oceans.

EXTINCTION OF THE DINOSAURS



DID YOU KNOW? A meteorite impact alone cannot explain the extinction of the dinosaurs. Around the same time, there were massive volcanic eruptions in India that released lots of gas and dust into the atmosphere, causing a climate change catastrophe!

FIRST GRASS



DID YOU KNOW? The oldest known grass fossils were found in India, in fossil dinosaur poo!