

Name: _____

Date: _____

Theories

Most of what we study is based on facts, but scientists have to make educated guesses about prehistory. We call these guesses theories. Theories about prehistory often change as we make new discoveries about the past.

Many cultures and religious faiths have creation stories. Some people believe that God created the earth about six thousand years ago in six days, as explained in the Book of Genesis. They do not share the view of prehistory held by most scientists.

Scientists are not positive their theories are correct. Theories frequently change as we make new discoveries. Almost everything we know about prehistory is based on what we have learned in the last two hundred years. It is quite possible that the theories presented today will be very different from what we will discover in the future.

Fill in the Blanks

Prehistoric people did not know how to r_____ or w_____, so there are no written *r_____ of that time. Scientists have been forced to make e_____ guesses about prehistory. We call those guesses t_____. Theories about p_____ often c_____ as we make new d_____ about the p_____.

Almost everything we know about p_____ is based on what scientists have learned in the past two h_____ years. It is very p_____ that t_____ presented *t_____ will be very d_____ from what we will d_____ in the f_____.

Answer in complete sentences

1. What is a theory?

*2. Why might a scientific theory change?

*This is a higher order learning question. You must answer the question to the best of your ability, but any reasonable answer will be graded as correct.