

No 14 Gap Fill

Put these words into the spaces in the paragraph below.

era
excessively
massive
drought
precipitation
single
prolonged
fauna

Farmers pray for rain in times of (1) _____. Most of us have experience of wanting the heavens to open for our garden to be watered during an (2) _____ dry spell. However, none of us can imagine a (3) _____ period of rain lasting two million years. U.K. geologist and forensic scientist Alastair Ruffell has discovered that 200-300 million years ago, before the (4) _____ landmass of Pangea separated into continents, Earth did see an (5) _____ during which it rained non-stop for up to two million years. Dr Ruffell said this helped forge the development of flora and (6) _____ all over the globe. He believes the (7) _____ may have been sparked by a huge rise in humidity following a series of (8) _____ volcanic eruptions.

Put these words into the spaces in the paragraph below.

dated
terms
findings
mammals
evidence
deposited
origins
diversify

Dr Ruffell and his team based their (9) _____ on research conducted on strata of rock in the Eastern Alps in Europe in the 1970s and 80s. The data showed unusual layers (10) _____ in ancient rock that (11) _____ back over 200 million years. Ruffell said this led to growing (12) _____ that the wet period may have been, "the trigger that enabled dinosaurs, and possibly the other members of our modern land-based fauna, to (13) _____ and dominate the land". He added: "It may have been one of the most important events in the history of life, in (14) _____ of its role in allowing not only the age of dinosaurs, but also the (15) _____ of most key classes that form the modern fauna of...turtles, crocodiles, lizards and (16) _____