

NAME _____ CLASS _____ NO _____

Directions: Read the passage. Use the highlighted vocabulary words to fill in the blanks to complete the passage.

WORD BOX

ice moved along left noticed explain rocks scientist



Death Valley is one of the lowest, hottest places in the world. It's an amazing desert in the western US. But something mysterious happens there sometimes. Rocks as heavy as 180 kg can move up to 450 m across the desert floor. How does this happen? The climate doesn't _____ this. For centuries, people _____ that huge rocks _____ overnight. No one saw them move. There were no footprints in the sand. There were no signs of human activity around anywhere. Trails were _____ behind by the moving rocks. So what moved the rocks?

Scientists couldn't understand how the rocks moved. For years, people saw strange lights in the night sky. Did the lights move the rocks? Finally, a _____ solved the mystery. Deserts are hot in the day, but they get very cold at night. In winter, the ground freezes. On the desert floor, thin sheets of _____ form. Not many plants grow in the desert. Powerful winds blow heavy rocks across the ice in the bare desert. The _____ scrape the desert floor as they skate _____ the ice. A trail is left behind.

It's a simple answer to an old mystery. The climate explains a lot, after all.

TEST UNIT 1 E32204





Directions: Match the words with the definitions.

1. climate 
2. century 
3. trail 
4. sheet 
5. solve 
6. scrape 
7. skate 
8. overnight 
9. mysterious 
10. powerful 

-  a. (adj.) secret, unclear, or unknown
-  b. (v.) to glide across the top of a surface
-  c. (n.) a period of one hundred years
-  d. (h.) the marks left on the ground by a moving object
-  e. (adj.) strong
-  f. (n.) a thin layer of something.
-  g.(v.) to figure out and answer.
-  i. (v.) to scratch or grind a surface.
-  j.(adv.) during a period of one night.
-  h. (n.) temperature and weather pattern in the place.

Directions : Unscramble and write the sentence.



skate / The / across / rocks / ice / the
