

## Complete the text about childhood amnesia with these words.

VERBS:      BLOT OUT   EVOKE   RECALL   REMIND   REMINISCE   SUPPRESS

NOUNS:      MIND   NOSTALGIA   RECOLLECTIONS

ADJECTIVES:   EVOCATIVE   LASTING   UNFORGETTABLE

**THE FIRST** two or three years of your life are full of new and, you would think, <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ experiences. But the reality is that most adults can <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ almost nothing from those very early years, their earliest <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ being, on average, from the age of about three and a half. This phenomenon is often referred to as 'childhood amnesia'. Interestingly, young children are often able to bring to <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ certain events from their first two years of life but, for reasons which are not fully understood, they generally lose this ability as they get older. (The artist Salvador Dali claimed he could recollect being in the womb, but there is no way to prove or disprove this!) Do those earliest memories disappear or does the mind <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ them for some reason? Nobody is sure.

As well as this tendency to lose or <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ memories from the first three years, most people have far fewer memories up to the age of eight than for other periods in their lives and they are often quite sketchy. Sometimes a picture or a piece of music can <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ you of something or someone from years ago, and smells can be particularly <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. It is also possible for a sight, smell or sound to <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a feeling – for example, <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ – rather than a specific memory. We still do not know exactly how the human mind stores information, but we do know that people who frequently <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ about childhood experiences are more likely to create <sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ memories.

