

These stories are from pages 7 and 8 of *First News*. Read the stories, and then try the puzzle. To help you, we have underlined the answers to the crossword puzzle clues in the stories – but you will need to match the correct word with each clue!



DISCOVERY NEWS

ANCIENT FOREST FOUND



EVIDENCE that a prehistoric forest existed in the South Pole more than 90 million years ago has been discovered by a team of researchers.

Soil that came from a Cretaceous-era forest was discovered in the seabed near the South Pole and included roots, pollen and plant spores in pristine condition. The fossil traces, found by a team from the UK and Germany, suggest that the South Pole may have had a much warmer climate in prehistoric times than it does now and that the area was once a thick, swampy forest.

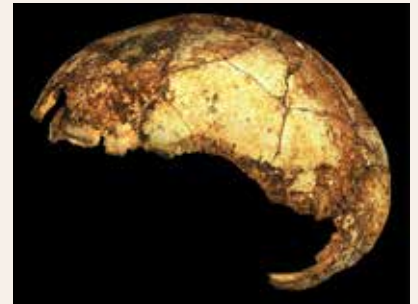
The next part of the puzzle is for scientists to work out what caused the area to cool so drastically, forming the ice sheets that are found in Antarctica today.

The full report was published in the science journal *Nature*.

ANCIENT SKULL FOUND

AN ancient skull, thought to be the oldest ever found, has been unearthed in South Africa.

The skull, belonging to modern human's direct ancestor Homo erectus, is believed to have been from a young child who lived more than 2.2 million



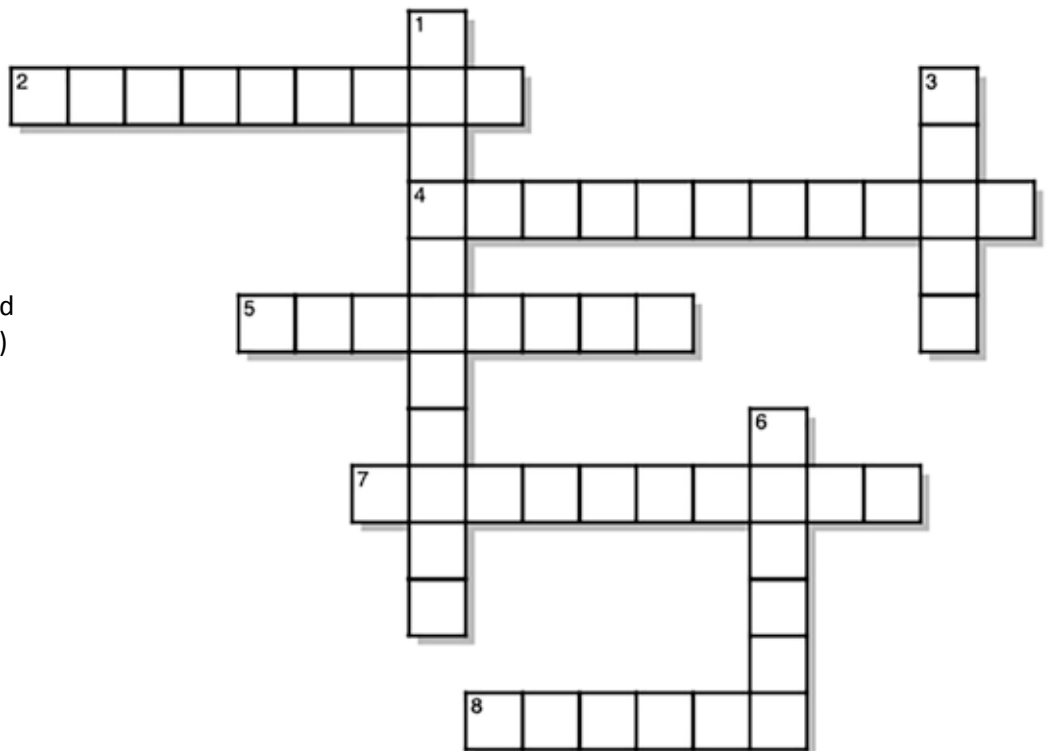
years ago. The team of Australian researchers who pieced together the 150 skull fragments say this could mean that our ancestors lived 200,000 years earlier than we previously thought. Lead researcher Professor Andy Herries said he "could not stress how rare" the find was. "The group that this two or three-year-old was a part of could have been the origin of everyone alive today."

ACROSS

- 2) People you are descended from (plural noun 9)
- 4) The translation of this Latin phrase is 'upright man' (proper noun 4, 7)
- 5) Original condition; unspoilt (adjective 8)
- 7) A period of time between 66 and 145 million years ago (adjective 10)
- 8) Beginning; source (noun 6)

DOWN

- 1) Describing the period of time before written, human records (adjective 11)
- 3) Bones or cartilage that protect the brain (noun 5)
- 6) Microscopic grains from the male part of a flower (noun 6)



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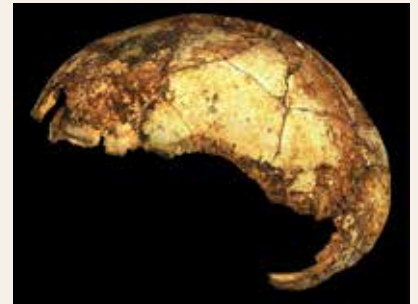
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