Fossil Dig Worksheet

Name: ANSWER KEY

1) In Layer A, examine each fossil and then fill in the answers below.

	One trait this fossil has is...
Fossil 1	*long legs for walking **OR** fingers and toes for grasping tree limbs **OR** a tail for balancing and grasping tree limbs.*
Fossil 2	*wings/feathers for flying through the air **OR** legs for walking on tree limbs and the ground.*
Fossil 3	*wings for flying through the air **OR** legs for walking or holding onto plants.*

2) I think the fossils found in Layer A lived **ON LAND** / **IN THE WATER** when they were alive. I think this because…

LESS sophisticated answer:	***MORE sophisticated answer:***
the animals in Layer A have traits that help them live on land, but not in the water.	*the fossils of the animals that lived in the habitat of Layer A have traits that help them to survive on land or in the air. When they were alive these animals must have lived in a habitat that was mostly dry land.*

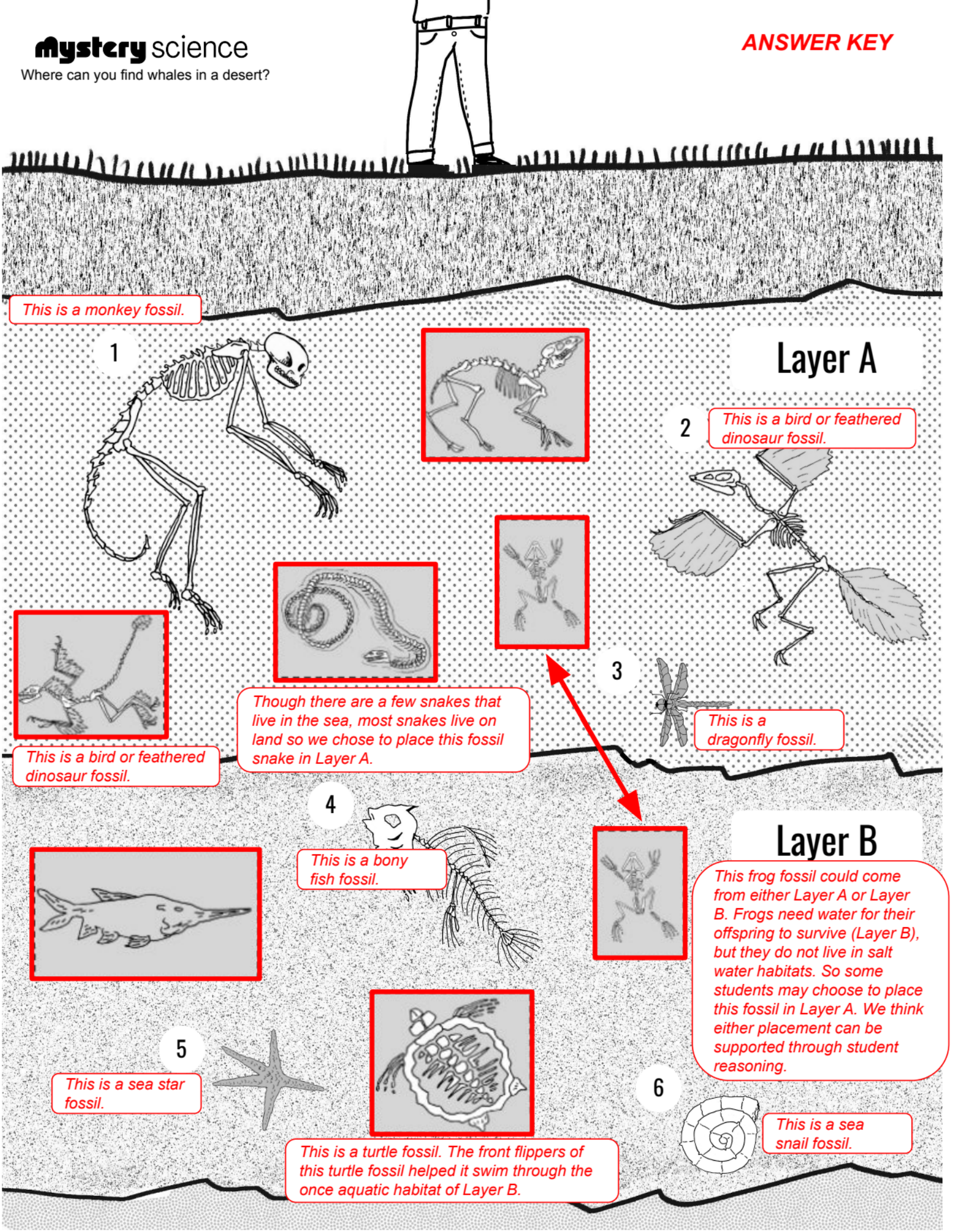
3) For each fossil in Layer B, fill in the blanks below.

	One trait this fossil has is...
Fossil 4	*fins for swimming through the water **OR** gills for breathing in the water.*
Fossil 5	*limbs for crawling on the ocean floor OR a hard outer skeleton to protect it from predators.*
Fossil 6	*a hard outer skeleton to protect it from predators.*

4) I think the habitat **DID** / **DID NOT** change between Layer A and Layer B. I think this because...

LESS sophisticated answer:	***MORE sophisticated answer:***
the animals in Layer A have traits that help them live on land. The animals in Layer B have traits that help them live in the water.	*the fossils found in Layer A are very different from the fossils found in Layer B. The fossils in Layer A have traits that helped them live on land, but the fossils in Layer B have traits that helped them live in the water (ocean). So the habitat must have changed from a place with water (an ocean) to a place with mostly dry land.*

Mystery science

Where can you find whales in a desert?

ANSWER KEY