

## Bright pink is the world's oldest colour

13th July, 2018



Most of us might think that the world's oldest colour is black or dark grey. However, scientists have found out that bright pink is the oldest known colour. Researchers looked at 1.1-billion-year-old rocks deep beneath the Sahara Desert. They crushed the

rocks into powder and found the bright pink colouring in them. This means that pink is the oldest colour on geological record. Dr. Nur Gueneli from the Australia National University led the research. She made the discovery in a lab in Australia. Dr. Gueneli said the colour was produced by ancient organisms that lived in the oceans. She added that the oceans are so old they no longer exist. At that time, tiny organisms were the largest life forms on Earth.

Dr. Gueneli said her first reaction was "sheer amazement". She said her team thought the rock powder might turn black when they were doing their experiments on it. Instead, it turned pink. Another researcher said: "I remember I heard this screaming in the lab. Dr. Gueneli came running into my office and said, 'look at this,' and she had this bright pink stuff...It turned out to be real colour, 1.1 billion years old." The rocks could contain other colours, from a blood red to a deep purple. Gueneli explained how important her find was. She said: "Imagine you could find a fossilized dinosaur skin that still has its original colour - green or blue. That is exactly the type of discovery that we've made."

Sources: [cnn.com](http://cnn.com) / [livescience.com](http://livescience.com) / [smithsonianmag.com](http://smithsonianmag.com)

### Writing

Pink is the most important colour in the world. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

black / scientists / bright pink / powder / geological / research / organisms / tiny reaction / experiments / screaming / stuff / blood red / imagine / dinosaur / discovery

### True / False

- a) The article said black was the world's oldest colour. T / F
- b) Scientists found pink colouring in 1.1-billion-year-old rocks. T / F
- c) The rocks with the pink colouring were found in the desert in Australia. T / F
- d) The pink colouring came from chemical reactions in caves. T / F
- e) A researcher thought rock powder would turn a white colour. T / F
- f) Another researcher heard the lead researcher scream in a lab. T / F
- g) The lead researcher said the rocks could contain other colours. T / F
- h) A researcher likened her discovery to finding blue dinosaur skin. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>found out</b> | a. very old    |
| 2. <b>beneath</b>   | b. significant |
| 3. <b>produced</b>  | c. biggest     |
| 4. <b>ancient</b>   | d. initial     |
| 5. <b>largest</b>   | e. under       |
| 6. <b>first</b>     | f. include     |
| 7. <b>amazement</b> | g. discovered  |
| 8. <b>contain</b>   | h. precisely   |
| 9. <b>important</b> | i. created     |
| 10. <b>exactly</b>  | j. surprise    |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Why is pink associated with love and romance today?
- c) When was the last time you were totally amazed?
- d) Will scientists ever kind dinosaur skin with its original colour?
- e) What's your favourite colour, and why?
- f) How important is colour?
- g) What pink things do you have?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

## Phrase Match

1. Most of us might
  2. 1.1-billion-year-old rocks deep beneath
  3. They crushed the
  4. pink is the oldest colour
  5. tiny
  6. her first reaction was
  7. I remember I heard this screaming
  8. The rocks could contain
  9. find a fossilized
  10. exactly the type of discovery
- a. other colours
  - b. on geological record
  - c. that we've made
  - d. rocks into powder
  - e. "sheer amazement"
  - f. the Sahara Desert
  - g. dinosaur skin
  - h. organisms
  - i. think that
  - j. in the lab

## Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think of the colour pink?
- b) Do you prefer the colour black or pink?
- c) Why weren't there colours before this pink was found?
- d) What colour was the rest of Earth when the rocks were pink?
- e) What is the colour pink used for today?
- f) How big a discovery is this?
- g) How interested are you in geology?
- h) What happened to the ancient oceans?

## Spelling

1. siinettcss have found out
2. rocks deep hetaben the Sahara Desert
3. crushed the rocks into rdwope
4. the oldest colour on laogcilgeo record
5. She made the yodcivesr in a lab
6. tiny gsmanisor
7. her first rceoanti
8. doing their etmesrpinxe on it
9. I heard this rgnescima in the lab
10. she had this ihgbrt pink stuff
11. The rocks could aotncni other colours
12. still has its nioigrla colour

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. i	4. a	5. c
6. d	7. j	8. f	9. b	10. h

## Role Play

### Role A – Pink

You think pink is the best colour. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their colours. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): black, red or blue.

### Role B – Black

You think black is the best colour. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their colours. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): pink, red or blue.

### Role C – Red

You think red is the best colour. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their colours. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): black, pink or blue.

### Role D – Blue

You think blue is the best colour. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their colours. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): black, red or pink.

## Speaking – Best Colours

Rank these with your partner. Put the best colours at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- yellow
- red
- silver
- purple
- pink
- black
- blue
- green

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.