

The Grand Canyon

Mike Graf



PM

The Grand Canyon

Level 22

Running Words 728 **Text Type** Description

Curriculum Areas English (Literacy, Literature, Language); Science (Earth and Space Sciences, Biological Sciences); Humanities (Geography, History)

Retelling to Encourage Critical Thinking About the Content

Ask each student to retell the description in their own words.

Record the retelling for further discussion and reflection.

Questions to Reinforce Meaning and Stimulate Discussion

Literal

- 1 Where is the Grand Canyon located?
- 2 How many groups of Native American peoples live in the Grand Canyon today?
- 3 Why did miners come to the Grand Canyon in the late 1800s?

Inferential

- 4 Why might the Paiute people have described the Grand Canyon as a 'mountain turned upside down'?
- 5 Why are the plants in the bottom of the canyon different from those that grow on its rims?
- 6 What would people be able to see from one of the lookouts?
- 7 Why is it difficult to hike up from the bottom of the canyon?
- 8 What is a 'bird's-eye view'?

Applied Knowledge

- 9 Why are some places, such as the Grand Canyon, famous all over the world?
- 10 Before it was protected, how might people have damaged the Grand Canyon?

Links with Other PM Guided Reading Books

Level 22	Information Report	<i>All About Salt</i>
Level 22	Information Report	<i>Megafauna</i>
Level 21	Information Report	<i>Outdoor Adventure Parks</i>
Level 21	Description	<i>The Mississippi River</i>



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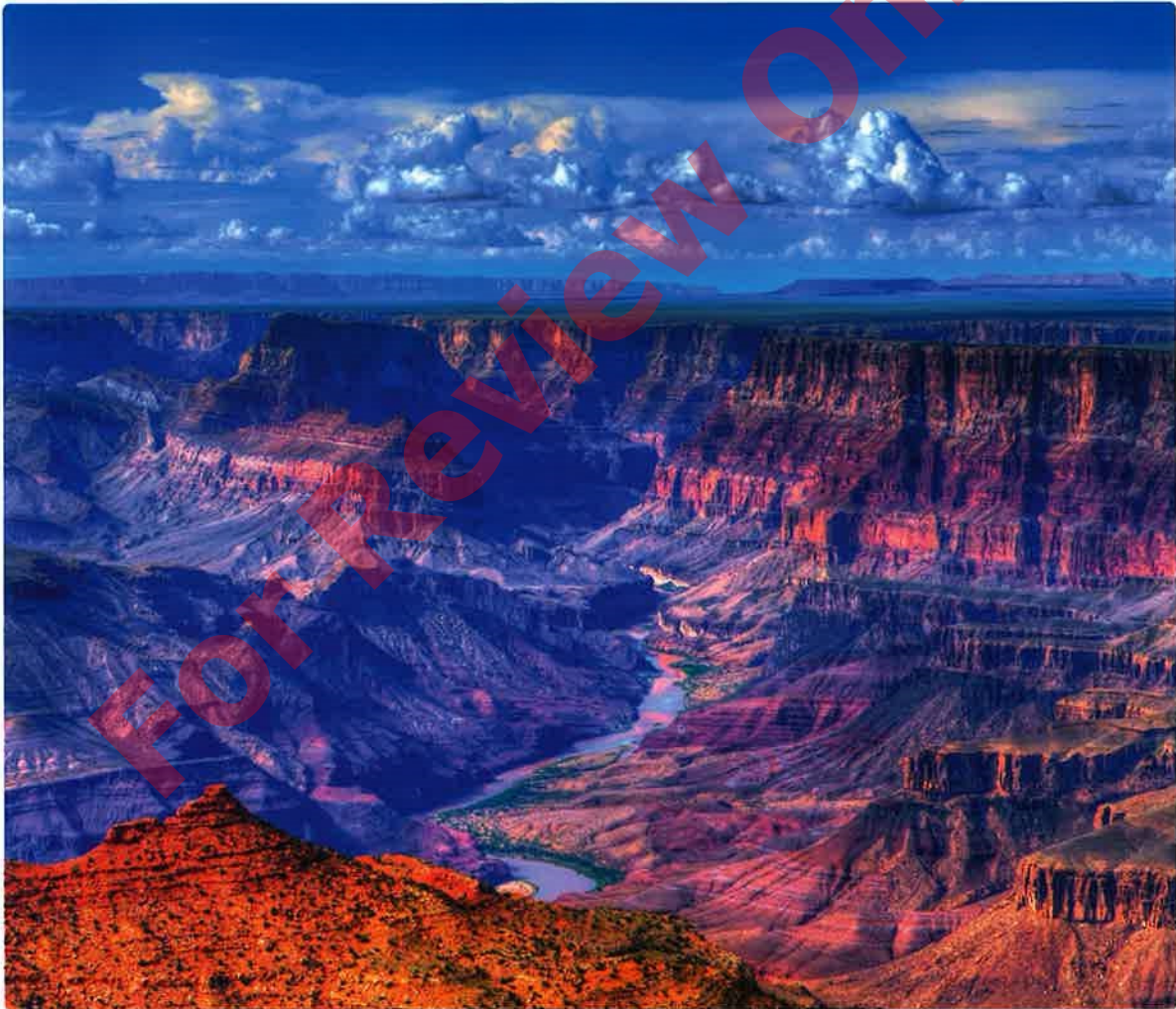
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A Huge Canyon

A canyon is a deep valley with steep sides.

The world's most famous canyon is the Grand Canyon.

It is in Arizona, in the USA.



The Grand Canyon is near a **mountain range** called the Rocky Mountains.

The Colorado River flows out of the Rocky Mountains and through the Grand Canyon.



The Grand Canyon is huge. It is 446 kilometres long, 1.6 kilometres deep and up to 29 kilometres wide. It has a North **Rim** and a South Rim.



The top of the canyon on one side is called the South Rim and the other side is called the North Rim.

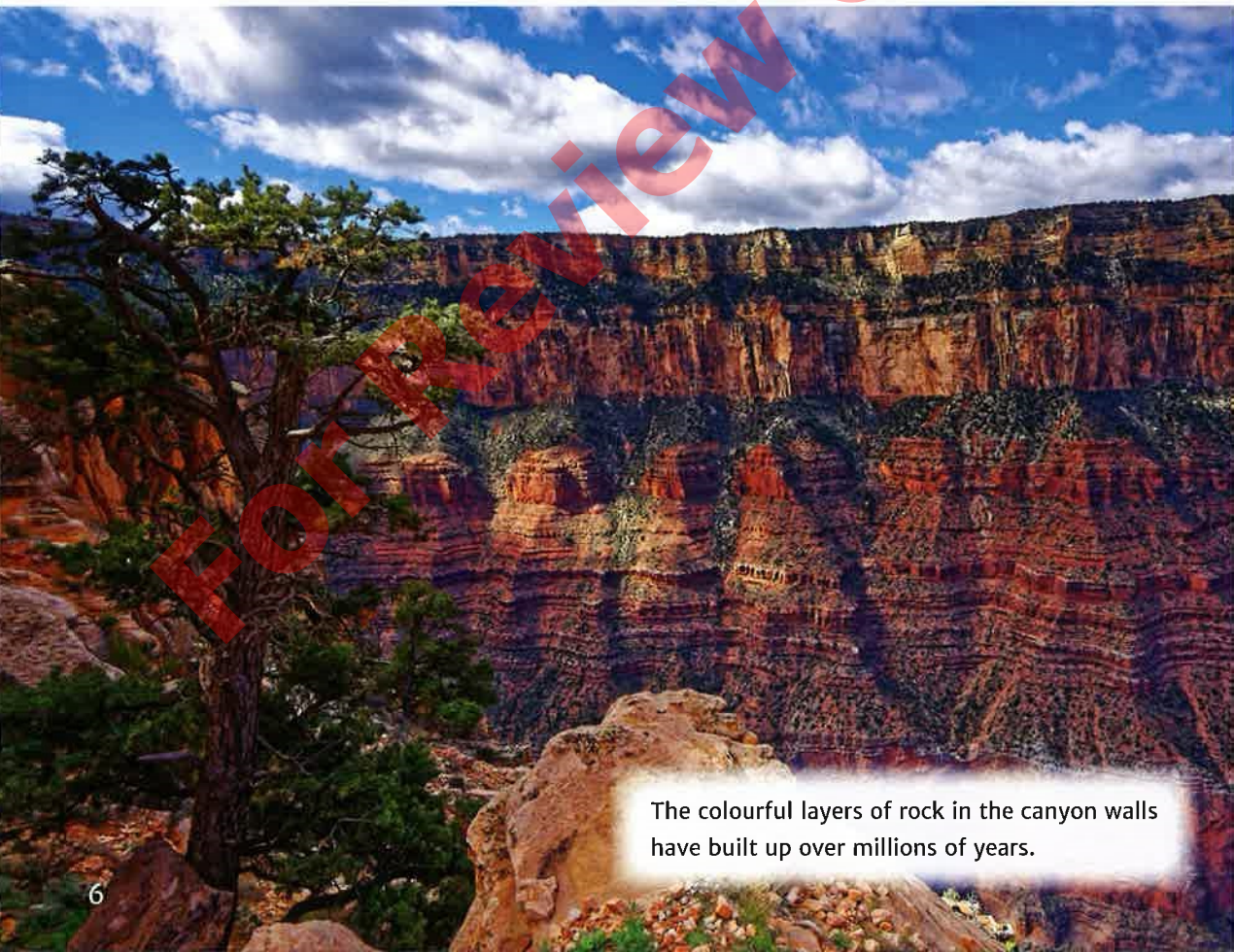
The Grand Canyon is important to the Paiute (say: *Pie-oot*) **Native Americans**. Their name for the canyon is “Kaibab”, which means “mountain turned upside down”.



How the Grand Canyon Was Formed

About 60 million years ago, near where the Grand Canyon is today, large areas of rock below Earth's surface began to bump into each other.

The land above the rocks rose up and the Rocky Mountains were formed.



The colourful layers of rock in the canyon walls have built up over millions of years.

Then, around six million years ago, water began to rush down the mountains, making rivers. The water from one of the rivers wore away the rocky ground and the Grand Canyon was formed. This happened over many thousands of years.

Scientists believe that some rocks at the bottom of the Grand Canyon are up to 1.8 billion years old.

