**Earth Changes**

**Elephants, lions, and camels roamed Alaska 12,000 years ago. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 39)**

**Up until thirteen thousand years ago, there were giant beavers in North America that were eight feet long. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 172)***

**Italy and Switzerland have agreed to redraw their border because global warming is melting the Alpine glaciers that mark their respective boundaries. The border had been fixed since 1861. (London Daily Telegraph, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 3-10, 2009)**

**The drifting of the Earth's crust means the continents have not always been in the same place. North Africa was once covered in a sheet of ice and was where the South Pole is today. And the South Pole was once covered with rain forests. (The Usborne Book of Facts & Lists)  
Almost every county in the United States has been under the ocean at least once in the past 400 million years. (Noel Vietmeyer, in Reader's Digest) *\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**  
It's obvious that the earth is still changing; what's not so obvious is its intended final form. (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**

**During most of earth’s geologic history, the North and South poles had no ice. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 242)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**The last massive geologic event to affect the shape of North America was the Great Ice Age that, during at least four major periods in the past two million years, covered the continent with ice sheets up to two miles thick as far south as Missouri. So much water was locked up in the glaciers that at times ocean levels dropped over 300 feet, exposing a land bridge between Siberia and Alaska. Drifting westward across the bridge into Asia were camels, modern horses and other animals that had evolved in America. (Robert Schiller, in Reader's Digest)**

**Of America’s 2.3 billion acres of land, its original proprietors, native Indian tribes, now own 2 percent of it. (Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Book, p. 95)**

**When Henry Hudson discovered Manhattan 400 years ago this month, the island was an Eden of hilly forests, bird-filled wetlands, and stream-crossed meadows, with more plant species than Yosemite has today. The human population was about 600 Native Americans. (The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 25, 2009)**

**Over the years, the Niagara Falls have moved more than 7 miles from their original site. (Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 120)**

**Menoceras, a prehistoric rhinoceros that was the size of a pony, roamed America’s Midwest about 20 million years ago. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 244)***

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**The largest desert in the world -- the Sahara, the very word, in Arabic, for “desert” -- is as large in area as the United States. The Sahara wasn't always a Sahara. Twenty thousand years ago, glaciers covered much of Europe, and cool winds brought moisture to northern Africa. What is now desert was then a pleasant land with rivers and lakes, forests and grasslands. (Isaac Asimov's Book of Faacts, p. 326)**

**The Sahara Desert is expanding south at the rate of about a half-mile a year. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 53)***

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**There was a time when what's now Yellowstone National Park was on the Pacific Ocean. (L. M. Boyd)**

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