

THINKING CRITICALLY

● Dinosaur Breath?

Scientists are constantly looking for evidence that can tell them more about the earth during prehistoric times. One of the most logical places to look for this evidence is in fossils. Imagine that scientists uncover a piece of amber that contains tiny air bubbles. The scientists believe that the amber is approximately 80 million years old. The air trapped in the bubbles would have come from the atmosphere at the time the amber formed. If this were true, the scientists would have discovered a sample of air that is 80 million years old.

Your Turn to Think

1. What information could the scientists learn from the trapped air bubbles?
2. What might make the results of the analysis of the trapped air unreliable or incorrect?
3. How might scientists determine whether the results of the analysis of the trapped air are accurate?
4. What other sources of information could scientists use to learn about the earth's prehistoric atmosphere?