

Dinosaur Fossils

Summary

Paleontologists are scientists who study fossils to learn about dinosaurs. A fossil is a print or remains of a plant or animal that lived long ago. Fossils help paleontologists learn what a dinosaur looked like, how big it was, what it ate, and how it moved. Paleontologists always look for new fossil clues. For many years, paleontologists thought *Tyrannosaurus rex* was the largest meat-eating dinosaur. A discovery in 1993 uncovered a dinosaur even bigger than *T. rex*, a *Gigantosaurus*.

Before Reading

Take a Picture Walk

Build background for the book by taking a picture walk with children. Discuss the pictures and preview the key vocabulary and concepts. Invite children to share what they may know about dinosaurs.

Vocabulary

dinosaur, extinct, fossil, paleontologist

Comprehension Skill: Retell

Say: One way to remember what you have read is to retell parts of a book in your own words. As you read, stop now and then to retell what you have learned about dinosaurs.

During Reading

Think Critically

Have children answer the *What Did You Learn?* questions located on the inside back cover of their book.

1. Which is the biggest dinosaur ever found? Where was it found?

Gigantosaurus is the biggest dinosaur ever found. It was discovered in Argentina in 1993.

2. **What is a fossil?** A fossil is a print or remains of a plant or animal that lived long ago.

After Reading

Writing in Science

Paleontologists study living things from long ago. What do you think a paleontologist's day might be like? Write to tell your ideas. Use words from the book as you write.

Organize Information

Graphic Organizer: Retell Have children complete the Retell chart on the BLM for this Leveled Reader to use facts from the book to retell how a dinosaur fossil might form.

Related Resources

Vocabulary Cards	Equipment Kit
Every Student Learns	Activity Flipchart
Quick Study	LabZone
Big Book of Science Songs and CD	
Graphic Organizer Transparencies	
Quick Activity Transparency	
www.pearsonsuccessnet.com	

Write your answers.

1. What are some things paleontologists learn by studying dinosaur fossils?
Paleontologists study fossils to learn what dinosaurs looked like, how big they were, what they ate, and how they moved.
2. Where was the first Tyrannosaurus rex found?
The first Tyrannosaurus rex was found in Montana.
3. What reason do some paleontologists give to explain why dinosaurs are now extinct?
Paleontologists think dinosaurs became extinct when their habitat couldn't meet their needs.
4. On page 5, the author explains how a dinosaur fossil might form. Using your own words, retell how this might happen. Use the graphic organizer to help you.

Possible answer:

Retell

The dinosaur died and fell into the river, where it got covered with mud and sand. When the river dried up, the mud, sand, and dinosaur bones turned to rock.