

Dinosaurs - Giants of the Past

ESL Reading Worksheet — Level C | tahricteaches.com

Dinosaurs lived on Earth millions of years ago. The word "dinosaur" means "**terrible** lizard." Some dinosaurs were very big, and some were small. They lived for about 165 million years before they **disappeared**.



There were many **types** of dinosaurs. The T-Rex was a scary meat-eater with big teeth. The Brachiosaurus was **huge** and ate plants. The Velociraptor was small but very fast.

We know about dinosaurs from **fossils**. Fossils are old bones and footprints in rocks. Scientists called **paleontologists** study these fossils. They learn how dinosaurs lived and what they ate.

About 66 million years ago, all dinosaurs died. Scientists think a big **asteroid** hit the Earth. The sky became dark and cold. Plants died, and dinosaurs could not find food.

But not all dinosaurs are gone! Birds are **related** to dinosaurs. When you see a bird, you are seeing a type of dinosaur. Museums have dinosaur **skeletons** that you can visit. Dinosaurs still amaze us today!

A. Vocabulary

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|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. terrible ____ | a. old bones or prints in rocks |
| 2. disappeared ____ | b. very very big |
| 3. types ____ | c. different kinds |
| 4. huge ____ | d. connected or in the same family |
| 5. fossils ____ | e. all the bones of a body |
| 6. paleontologists ____ | f. scientists who study dinosaurs |
| 7. asteroid ____ | g. very scary or frightening |
| 8. related ____ | h. went away; can no longer be seen |
| 9. skeletons ____ | i. to surprise and impress |
| 10. amaze ____ | j. a big rock from space |

B. True or False

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Dinosaurs lived thousands of years ago. _____ | 2. The word dinosaur means terrible lizard. _____ | 3. All dinosaurs were very big. _____ |
| 4. T-Rex ate plants. _____ | 5. Fossils help us learn about dinosaurs. _____ | 6. Birds are related to dinosaurs. _____ |
| 7. An asteroid hit Earth 66 million years ago. _____ | 8. Paleontologists are doctors. _____ | 9. You can see dinosaur skeletons in museums. _____ |

C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: terrible, types, huge, fossils, asteroid, related, skeletons

1. The word dinosaur means _____ lizard.
2. There were many _____ of dinosaurs.
3. The Brachiosaurus was _____ and ate plants.
4. We learn about dinosaurs from _____ in rocks.
5. Birds are _____ to dinosaurs.

D. Comprehension Questions

1. How long did dinosaurs live on Earth?
2. What does the word dinosaur mean?
3. What is a paleontologist?
4. How did the dinosaurs die?
5. How are dinosaurs still alive today?

E. Discussion Questions

1. Which dinosaur would you like to see? Why?
2. Have you been to a museum with dinosaur bones?
3. Why do you think people love dinosaurs?

Answer Key

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

B. True/False: 1-F, 2-T, 3-F, 4-F, 5-T, 6-T, 7-T, 8-F, 9-T

C. Fill Blanks: 1-terrible, 2-types, 3-huge, 4-fossils, 5-related

D. Comprehension: 1. About 165 million years; 2. Terrible lizard; 3. A scientist who studies dinosaurs; 4. An asteroid hit Earth, making it dark and cold; 5. Birds are related to dinosaurs