

## Digging for dinos

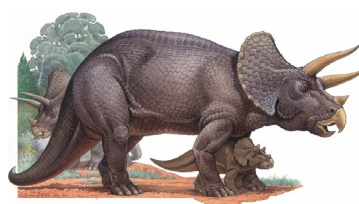
### 1 QUICK QUIZ

Test your knowledge of *dinos* (dinosaurs). Circle **True** or **False**.

- There were 300 kinds of dinosaurs. True False
- Dinosaurs ate people. True False
- Some dinosaurs could fly. True False
- Label these three dinosaurs: *stegosaurus*, *tyrannosaurus rex*, *triceratops*.



a) \_\_\_\_\_



b) \_\_\_\_\_



c) \_\_\_\_\_

### 2 WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Match the words from the article with the definitions. The paragraph number will also help you find the correct word.

displays    dominated    skeletons    shaking    park ranger    huge    feathers  
iron    fossils    footprint    species    down under    plates    existed

#### Paragraph 1

- making lots of quick movements \_\_\_\_\_
- very big \_\_\_\_\_
- remains of a plant or animal from a long time ago \_\_\_\_\_

#### Paragraph 2

- a heavy metal that also exists in our bodies \_\_\_\_\_

#### Paragraph 3

- type of animal or plant \_\_\_\_\_
- lived \_\_\_\_\_
- was the most important \_\_\_\_\_

#### Paragraphs 4 and 5

- flat pieces of bone that protect the body of some animals \_\_\_\_\_
- these cover a bird's body \_\_\_\_\_

#### Paragraph 6

- a mark in the ground made by a foot \_\_\_\_\_
- someone who works in a park to protect it \_\_\_\_\_

#### Paragraph 7

- nickname for Australia \_\_\_\_\_
- human or animal bones \_\_\_\_\_
- exhibits, objects on show \_\_\_\_\_

## Digging for dinos

### DIGGING FOR DINOS

by Mary-Lou Gray

1

You hear a sound. The ground is shaking. Something's coming. It's huge and it's hungry. It's a dinosaur – and it's coming to get you! Of course, things like this only happen in dinosaur films. No one has ever seen a live dinosaur because the last one died about 65 million years before the first people lived. But the dinosaurs are still around! Lots of people find dinosaur fossils all over the world. We talk to teen dinosaur experts about their work.

2

#### Finding fossils

One of the world's biggest collections of dinosaur fossils is at the Mesalands Dinosaur Museum in the US. **Stephen Smith, Donny Price**, both 15, and **Carmen Runyan**, 14, work on the museum's Fossil Friends programme.

**Donny:** In the museum there are more than 230 teeth – some of them 220 million years old! They're probably teeth from the earliest dinosaurs, called phytosaurs. Dinosaur teeth are not white. They're different colours.

**Stephen:** Yes, they're a bit purple because of the iron in the ground.

3

#### What is the coolest thing about dinosaurs?

**Donny:** Dinosaurs were the most successful species ever – much more successful than people. They existed for around 150 million years. We haven't lived for one million years yet and we already have so many problems!

**Carmen:** There were many different dinosaurs. When I was younger, I thought that all the dinosaurs lived at the same time. That's not true. Usually, one dinosaur dominated for a while and then they died.

4

#### What's your favourite dinosaur?

**Carmen:** The stegosaurus – it was one of the biggest dinosaurs. It had plates on its back.

**Donny:** The troodon – this dinosaur was very intelligent and could run 30 kilometres an hour. It lived 70–65 million years ago.

**Stephen:** The seismosaurus – its tail was as long as its neck. With its tail it could cut off another dinosaur's leg.

5

#### Dinos were here

17-year-old **Nicole Cronkhite** lives in Canada. Many different dinosaurs once lived there. "There's a lot that

we don't know about dinosaurs," she said. "Nobody knows what colour they were, for example." Experts like Nicole learn more about dinosaurs every year. "I know a lot about how different dinosaurs lived. Some, like the tyrannosaurus rex, lived alone. But others, like the triceratops, lived in families or groups. And some dinosaurs had feathers. This is amazing to me!"

6

#### Walking the walk

Dinosaurs haven't walked on earth for more than 65 million years. But you can still find their bones, their teeth and even their footprints in most countries in the world. **Toby Marlow**, 19, works full-time at Dinosaur Valley Park in the US state of Texas. Toby is a park ranger. He spends a lot of time working in the park and answering the visitors' questions about dinosaurs. Toby enjoys working at the park, and he loves the dinosaur tracks there. "Some of the tracks are more than a mile long," he says. "It's cool to know they once lived here."

7

#### Dinos down under

**Luke Woodley-Beattie** and **Anna Newton-Walters** are both 17 and live in Australia. They have been working at the National Dinosaur Museum in Canberra for more than three years. Luke gives museum tours to visitors and also sells fossils in the museum's shops. The museum has 23 complete skeletons and more than 300 fossil displays. Anna organizes dinosaur-themed birthday parties for kids. The kids have fun while Anna teaches them about dinosaurs. "I love my job because I'm helping children to become interested in science," Anna told us. "I believe science is one of the most important subjects you can learn."

8

#### Dino facts

- Dinosaurs lived from about 230 million to about 65 million years ago. Modern humans have lived for only 150,000 to 200,000 years.
- Not all dinosaurs were huge. The microraptor was 0.8m tall.
- There were more than 700 different kinds of dinosaurs.

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### 3 FIND THE INFORMATION

a) Complete the museum identity cards for Carmen, Toby, Luke and Anna. Which job would you like? Why? Can you find someone who agrees with you?

**Mesalands Dinosaur Museum**

Name: Carmen  
Surname: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age: 14  
Nationality: American  
Job: Fossil Friend

**Dinosaur Valley Park**

Name: Toby  
Surname: Marlow  
Age: 19  
Nationality: American  
Job: Park \_\_\_\_\_

**National Dinosaur Museum**

Name: Anna  
Surname: Newton-Walters  
Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nationality: Australian  
Job: Birthday Party Organizer

**National Dinosaur Museum**

Name: Luke  
Surname: Woodley-Beattie  
Age: 17  
Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_  
Job: Tour Guide and Shop Assistant

b) Read the information below. Label the museums: Dinosaur Valley Park (USA), National Dinosaur Museum (Australia), Mesalands Dinosaur Museum (USA). Which museum do you think is the most interesting? Why?

Museum	Museum information
1.	There are more than 230 fossil teeth. Some of them are 220 million years old!
2.	There are lots of great dinosaur tracks in the park. Some tracks are more than a mile long!
3.	There are 300 fossil displays and 23 complete skeletons. You can buy fossils in the shop too!

### 4 TEEN TALK

Cool. Read paragraph 6. Write the name of the person who said ...

*It's cool to know they once lived here.*

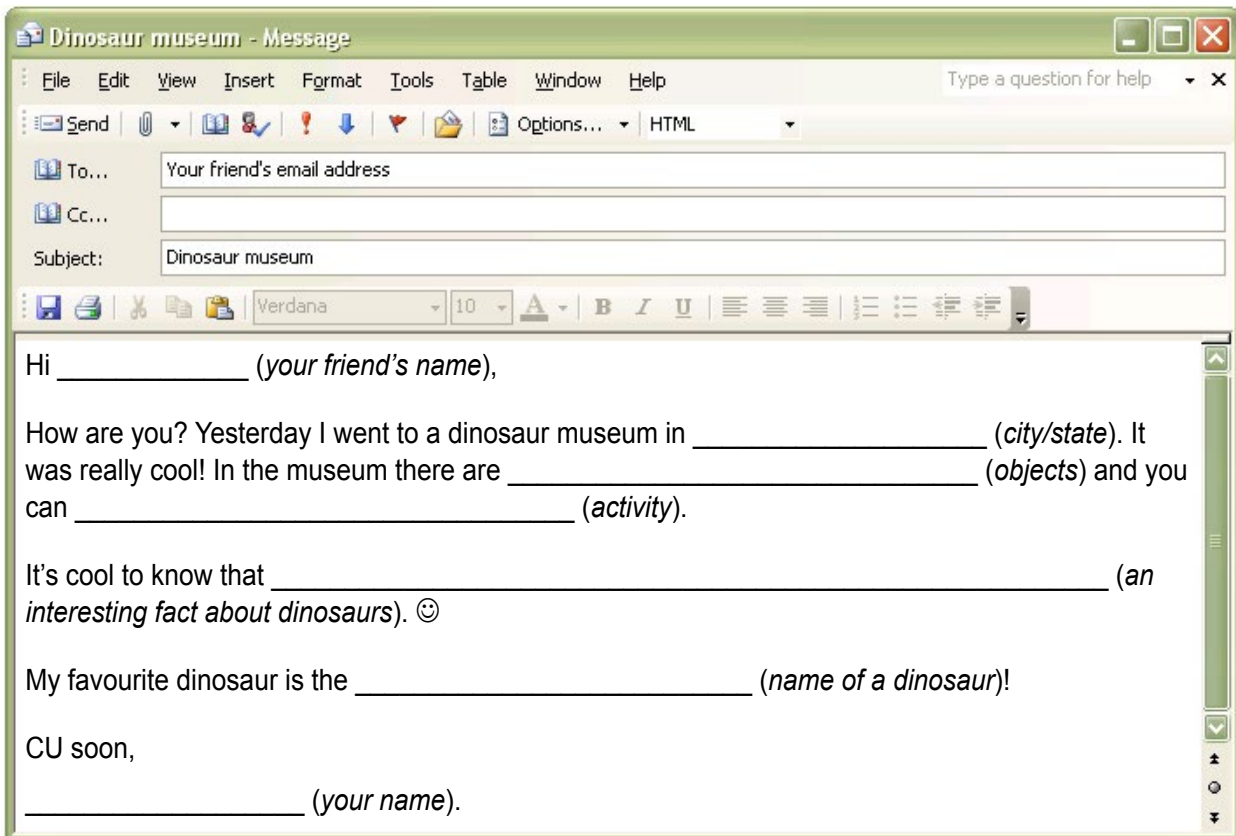
\_\_\_\_\_

Cool means interesting or amazing.

## Digging for dinos

### 5 WRITE AN EMAIL

You visited one of the museums yesterday. Write an email to one of your friends.



Dinosaur museum - Message

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Table Window Help

Type a question for help

Send Attach Insert Bold Italic Underline HTML

To... Your friend's email address

Cc...

Subject: Dinosaur museum

Verdana 10

Hi \_\_\_\_\_ (your friend's name),

How are you? Yesterday I went to a dinosaur museum in \_\_\_\_\_ (city/state). It was really cool! In the museum there are \_\_\_\_\_ (objects) and you can \_\_\_\_\_ (activity).

It's cool to know that \_\_\_\_\_ (an interesting fact about dinosaurs). ☺

My favourite dinosaur is the \_\_\_\_\_ (name of a dinosaur)!

CU soon,

\_\_\_\_\_ (your name).

### 6 WEBQUEST

Alone or in small groups, choose a museum about dinosaurs. Look on the Internet and find out. What can you see there? What can you do? What can you buy in the shop? What kind of parties do they organize? Make a poster about one of these: (a) the museum exhibits, (b) the museum activities/parties or (c) the shop. Present it to your class.

- The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History: <https://naturalhistory.si.edu>
- Natural History Museum: [www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/dino-directory/index.html](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/dino-directory/index.html)
- The Dinosaur Museum: [www.thedinosaurmuseum.com](http://www.thedinosaurmuseum.com)

#### Other interesting sites:

- Dinosaurs for Kids: [www.kidsdinosaurs.com](http://www.kidsdinosaurs.com)
- BBC Walking With Dinosaurs: [www.bbc.co.uk/nature/prehistoric](http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/prehistoric)

## Digging for dinos

### 7 DINO FACTS

In groups of three, find out about these three dinosaurs. Don't look at the other cards! Ask the other students questions and write their answers in your spaces. Continue until you have all the information. *Which is the coolest dinosaur?*

#### Student A

QUESTIONS	Apatosaurus	Tyrannosaurus rex	Velociraptor
How big was the _____?	_____ metres long	12 metres long	1.8 metres long
What did the _____ eat?	plants and stones	_____	meat
Where did the _____ live?	North America	North America	_____
What was the coolest thing about the _____?	Its _____ was on the top of its head.	It had tiny arms.	It could run and jump quickly.

Compare the size! A car is about 4.5 metres long and a school bus is about 12 metres long.

#### Student B

QUESTIONS	Apatosaurus	Tyrannosaurus rex	Velociraptor
How big was the _____?	21 metres long	_____ metres long	1.8 metres long
What did the _____ eat?	plants and stones	meat	_____
Where did the _____ live?	_____	North America	China and Russia
What was the coolest thing about the _____?	Its nose was on the top of its head.	It had tiny _____.	It could run and jump quickly.

Compare the size! A car is about 4.5 metres long and a school bus is about 12 metres long.

#### Student C

QUESTIONS	Apatosaurus	Tyrannosaurus rex	Velociraptor
How big was the _____?	21 metres long	12 metres long	_____ metres long
What did the _____ eat?	_____	meat	meat
Where did the _____ live?	North America	_____	China and Russia
What was the coolest thing about the _____?	Its nose was on the top of its head.	It had tiny arms.	It could _____ and _____ quickly.

Compare the size! A car is about 4.5 metres long and a school bus is about 12 metres long.

# Digging for dinos

## KEY

### 1

1. False
2. False
3. True
4. a) tyrannosaurus rex; b) triceratops; c) stegosaurus

### 2

1. shaking
2. huge
3. fossils
4. iron
5. species
6. existed
7. dominated
8. plates
9. feathers
10. footprint
11. park ranger
12. down under
13. skeletons
14. displays

### 3

- a) Carmen's surname is **Runyan**.  
Toby is a **park ranger**.  
Anna is **17**.  
Luke is **Australian**.
- b)
  1. Mesalands Dinosaur Museum (USA)
  2. Dinosaur Valley Park (USA)
  3. National Dinosaur Museum (Australia)

### 4

Toby

### 7

Complete information:

QUESTIONS	Apatosaurus	Tyrannosaurus rex	Velociraptor
How big was the _____ ?	21 metres long	12 metres long	1.8 metres long
What did the _____ eat?	plants and stones	meat	meat
Where did the _____ live?	North America	North America	China and Russia
What was the coolest thing about the _____ ?	Its nose was on the top of its head.	It had tiny arms.	It could run and jump quickly.